CHAPTER 11

●その十一●

曹操の朝服

CAO CAO'S CHAOFU

Translation and editing by Lion of Genesis

カカ
カカッ

カカッ
カカッ
カカッ
カカッ
あ
ざわ ざわ
カカッ

...allowed me to buy all these goods, taxes aside.
That girl I bought dirt cheap.
How do you like it? Look here!
ゴトッ
I'd like all of you to behave properly!
Now, now!
This is what they call "ready wit"!
Everything I set my eyes on went according to my aims!
Kch!
you.
!
But today, we'll give a magnificent one to .
Normally, commoners shouldn't get to taste the sweetness of a gift.

ざわ……
What is the meaning of this?
She was just a barbarian.
It's no big deal.
カチャ
うぐ…
Where is Shui Jing?

A girl of the same kind, but far more bewitching.
I'll introduce you to a girl with better looks.
Tell me.
I sold her to Zhang Rang, the Regular Palace Attendant
I sold her!
She left willingly!
Even though you have no right to ask about this, I'll tell you
Where is Shu Jing?

TO ZHANG RANG!?

ガッ
だん!
だん!
だん!
Why has Heaven sent me and Shui Jing to this world?

... to the obscene hands of decrepit ugliness?
どん
Moreover, why did he hand gentle Shui Jing...
どん
To Zhang Rang of all people?
ドイイイ
イイイイイ
ガタガタガタ...

ザッ
ザッ

ガタガタガタガタ…

ビッ

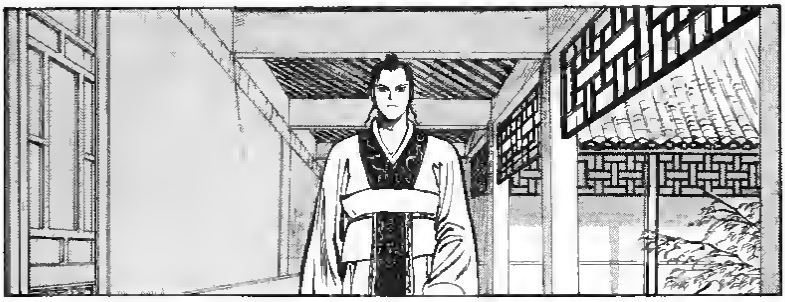
ズバ

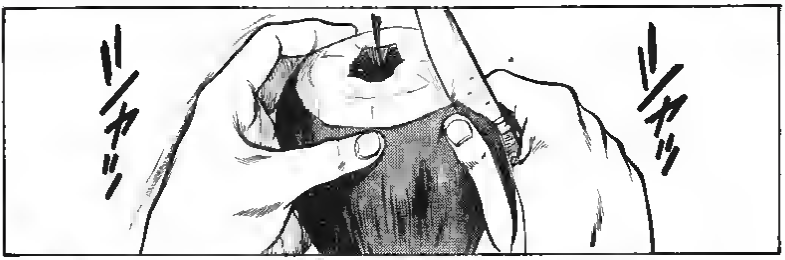
バカ!
ドッゴッ
カッ
ガチャン
ガチャン
Huuuh?
Tch, this ain't interestin'. He just got pissed. He can't do shit, after all!
Zhang Rang's house ain't over there!
カカ
カカッ

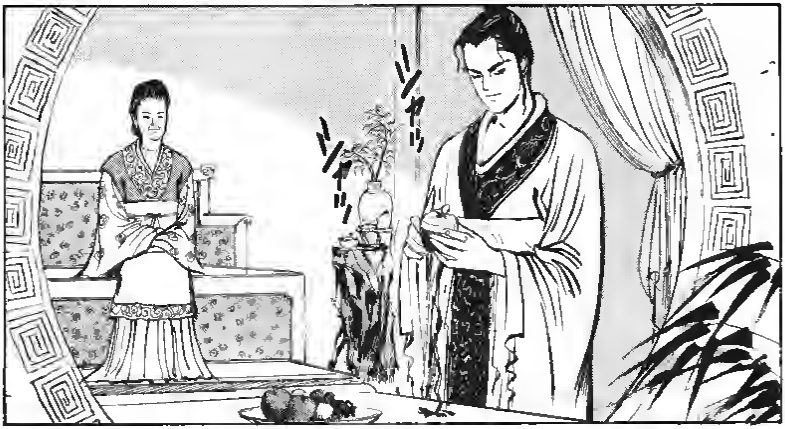
Heeey, Mengde!

*Chaofu: Attire worn by officials when attending to Imperial Court business. The equivalent of today's f dress

*Translator's note: the word itself can be read as "heavenly life". I went for this wiki based translation, even if it makes less sense in context




ソヤッ
ソヤッ


ソヤッ
ソヤッ

Shuu Jing...!

Mother Bai Lan
So it is
Whatever may be in your heart...
... you always move your hands and fingers splendidly
Your wish won't come true
My, my...
.....
Yes?
Mother.

I've peeled them
Is there anything else?
In that case...
No
It's enough

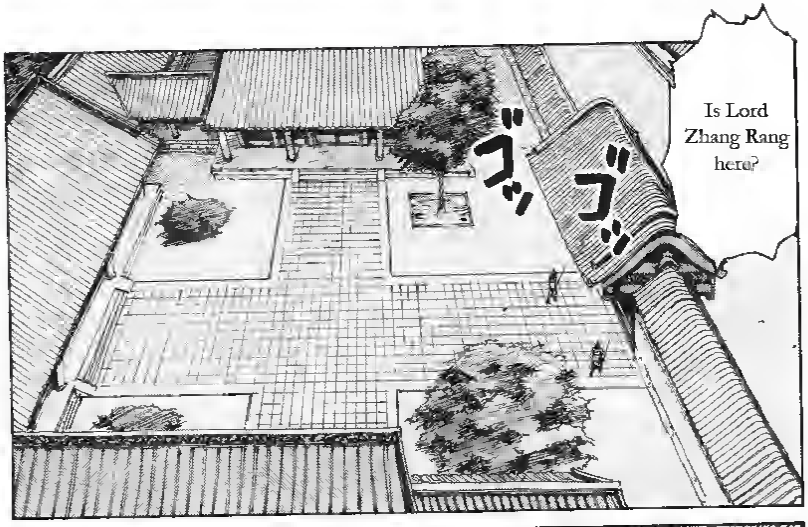
その十一
曹操の朝服　おわり

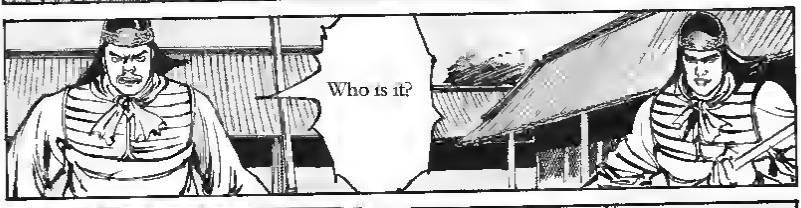
CHAPTER 12

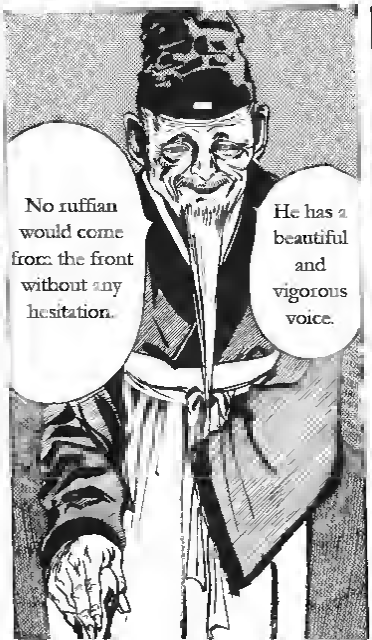
・その十二・

アモーレ!!
AMORE!!

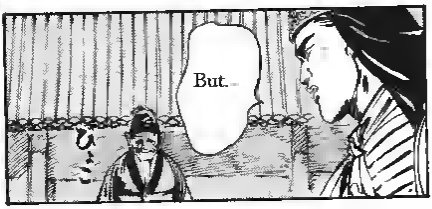
Translation and editing by Lion of Genesis


Is Lord Zhang Rang here?
ゴッ
ゴッ


Who is it?

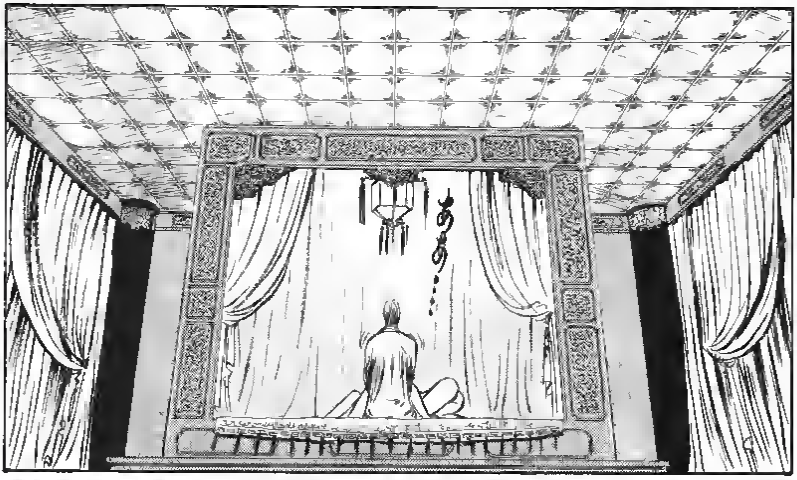

No ruffian would come from the front without any hesitation.
He has a beautiful and vigorous voice.

Let him in.
ひょう

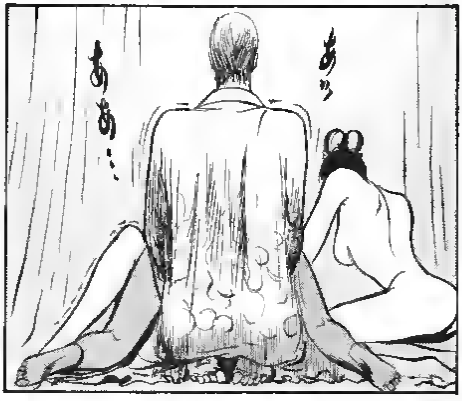

But...
ひょう

ガタッ
ギ
ギ
ザ
ザ
I have come to convey a message to Lord Zhang Rang
My name is Cao Cao Mengde

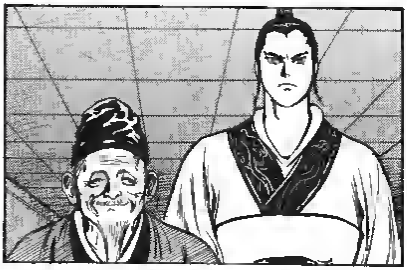
……
ひょう
We were rude.
Yes.
Do take great care of it.
My, what authority lies in this chaofu you wear!
Follow me inside.


あぁ…

くちゅ
くちゅっ
あぁぁぁよ


あっ
あぁ…

くちゅ
くちゅ
ぐちゅぐちゅ……



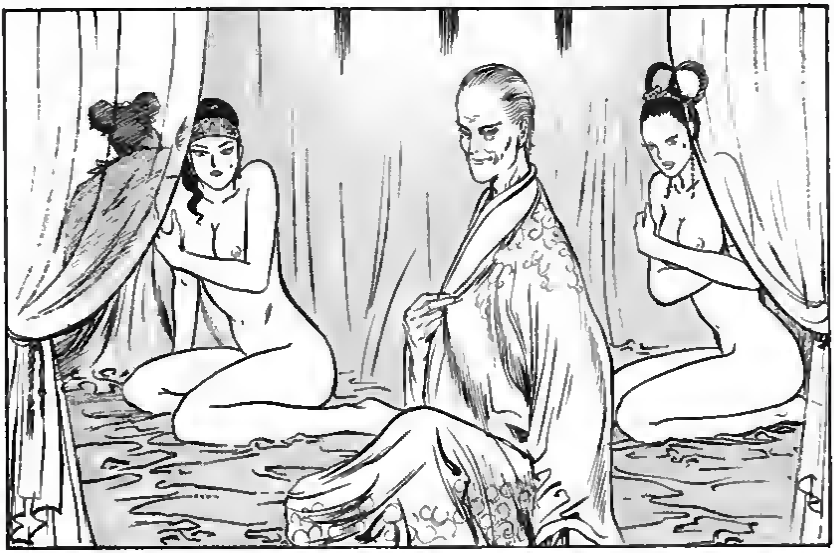
あッ
あうッ

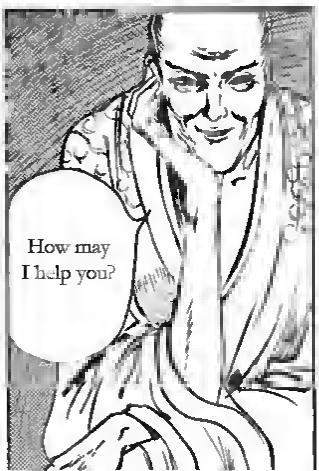
I wonder how long it'll take you to go insane
Kukuku, as expected from a barbarian

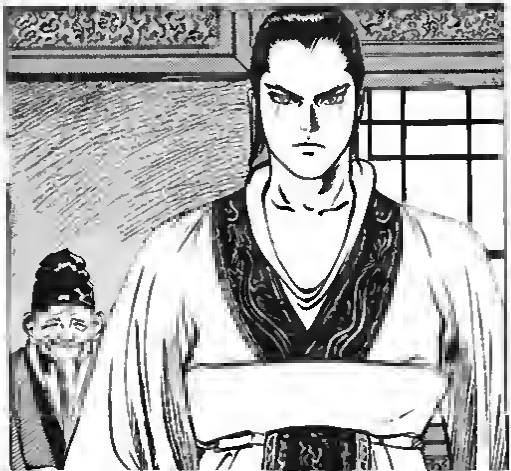
んうッ

ああ
Master.
This man called Cao Cao Mengde desires an urgent meeting with you

Could you wait a little?
ﾋﾟ!
ﾋﾟ!
Let him in.
ｽｯ
ﾊﾞｯ




How may
I help you?



I would like to take back Shui Jing.

Have you come all this way to say silly things?
Shui Jing and I are lovers.
I have decided to marry her.
I hope you do know to whom you are saying all this
You do not know me.

There is no man under Heaven who does not know this
Although you are merely the servant of the Son of Heaven, your power influences even the affairs of the greatest officials.
Hmpf!
A Yu Rang?
However, I shall not look for a Yu Rang*.
However...
I shall bother you with my request one more time after I defeat them all.
I am not sure how many guards are waiting in the antechamber

*Yu Rang: A famous assassin who worked for Zhu Bo. When his master was killed, he said "a man of high ethics will give his life to those who can appreciate it" and risked his life to avenge him.

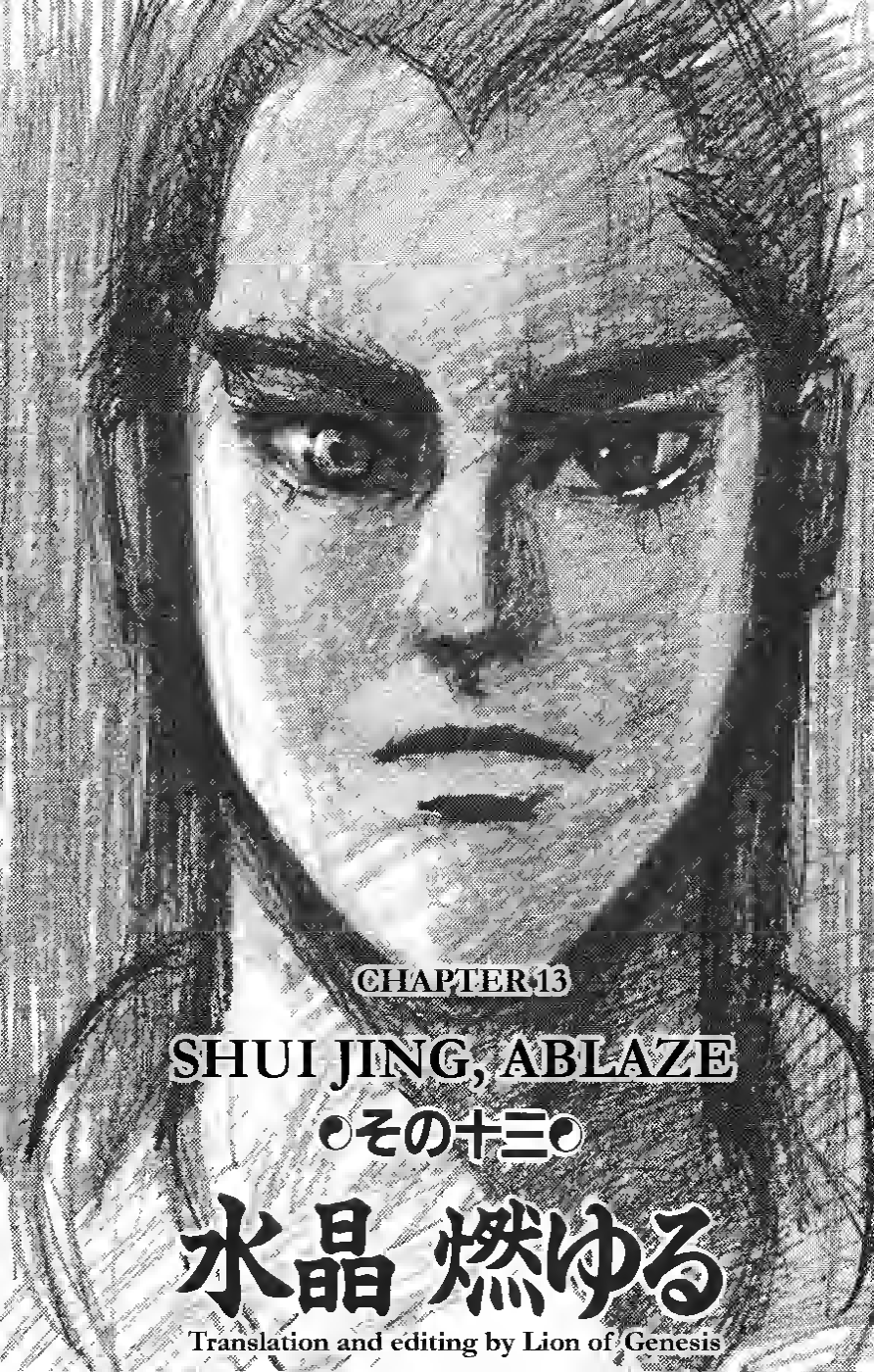
I would like to be the judge of that.
You might lose your life if you threaten me.
Are you adding further threats to your threats?
That is enough, go home!

I am not the Shu Jing you know anymore

Shui Jing
Kukuh So much for your preposterous antics
Shui Jing.

Guards!!

その十二
アモーレ!!　おわり



CHAPTER 13

SHUI JING, ABLAZE

●その十三●

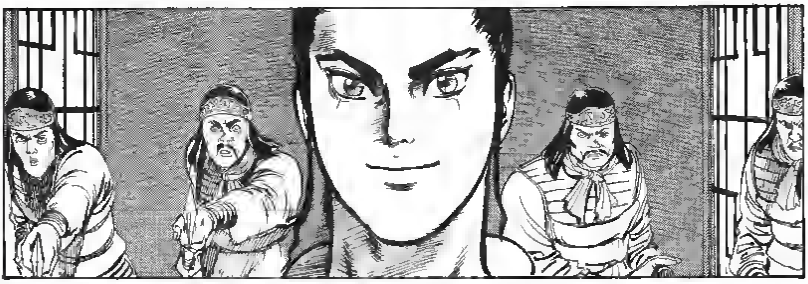
水晶 燃ゆる

Translation and editing by Lion of Genesis

Seize this man!
You may kill him if he resists!
Lord Cao!

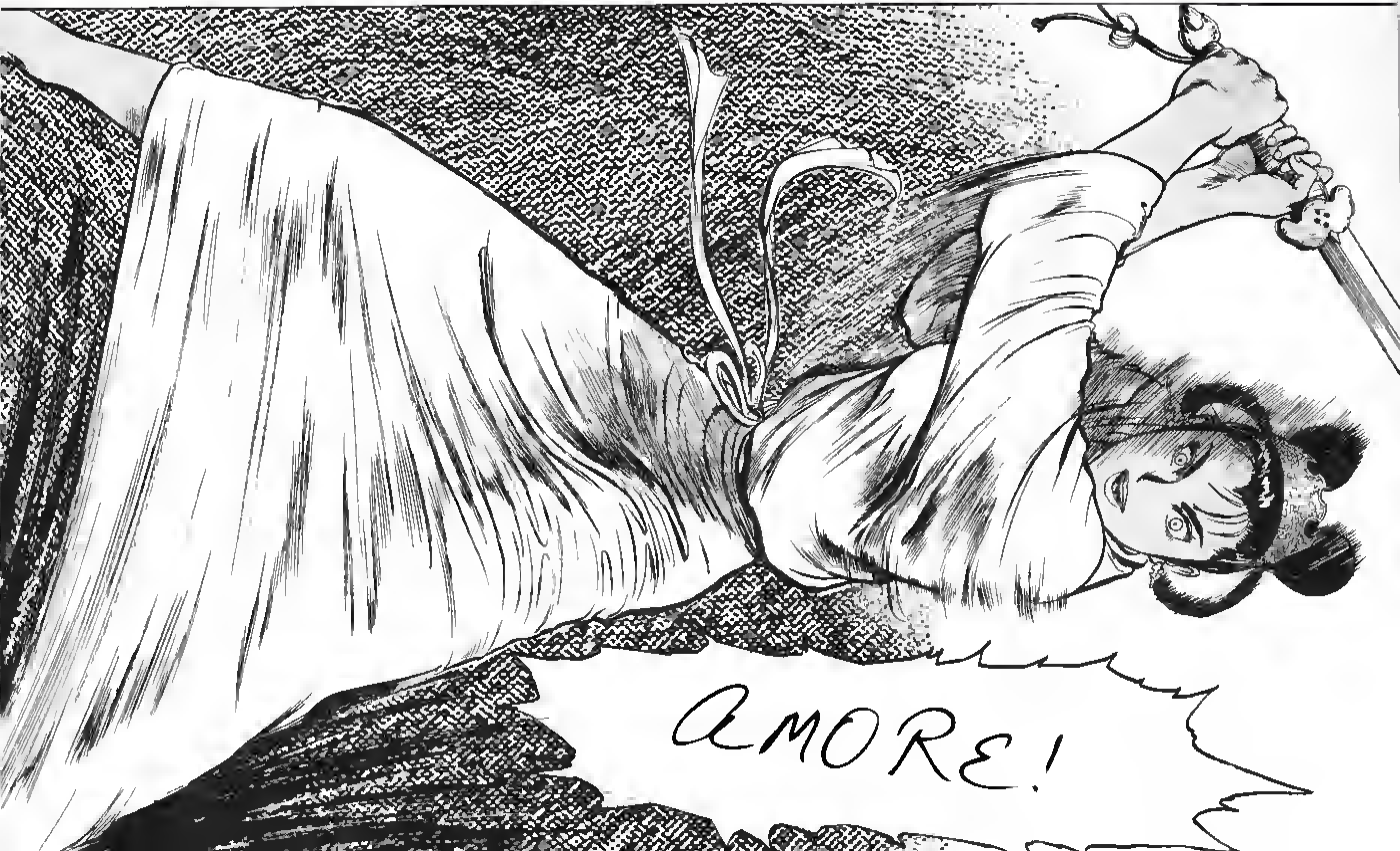
You are such a cruel person.
Your confidence is so overflowing that you believe everything will go as you please.

I really love that!

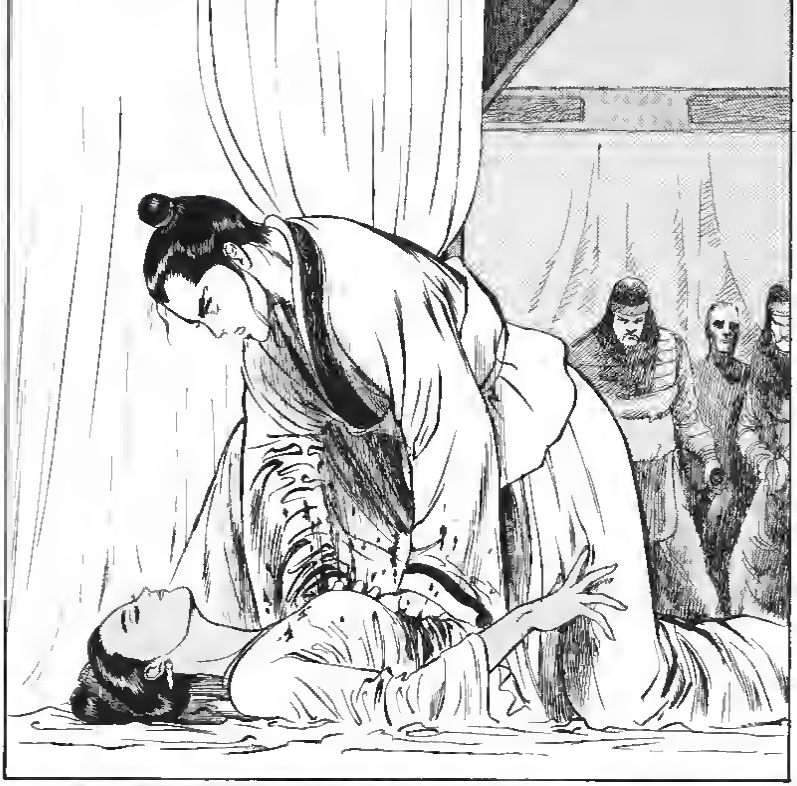


Say it again, so that I may be saved!

There you go.
Amore!
However, you do say it so beautifully
You gave me the strength to live.
However short this life may be.


AMORE!

Shui Jing!

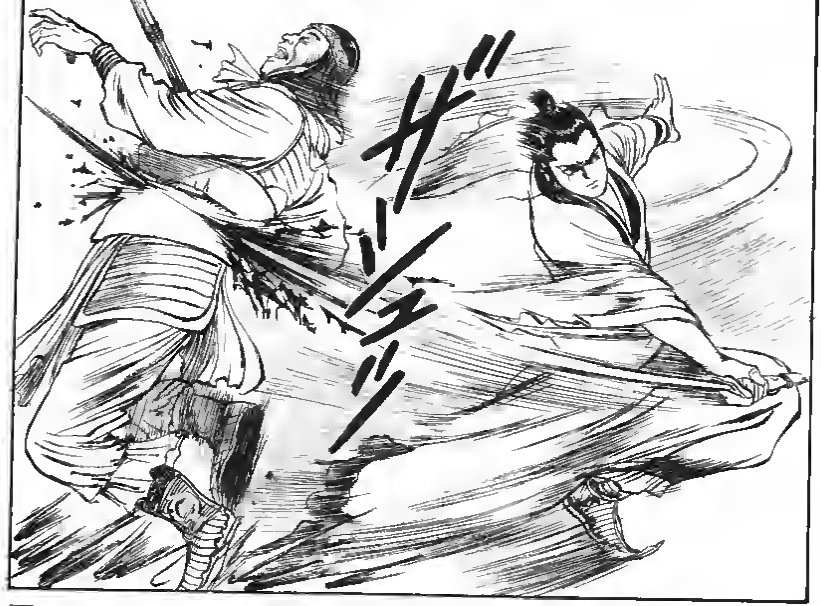


You are the one who killed this woman.

That blood is what you wished for.
You are willing to make any sacrifice to get what you want.
You burned to defy me with your fangs only for the sake of your desires
The true nature of one who is both a brat and a great villain!
This is your true nature!

Letting him live would do this world great harm!
Kill him!

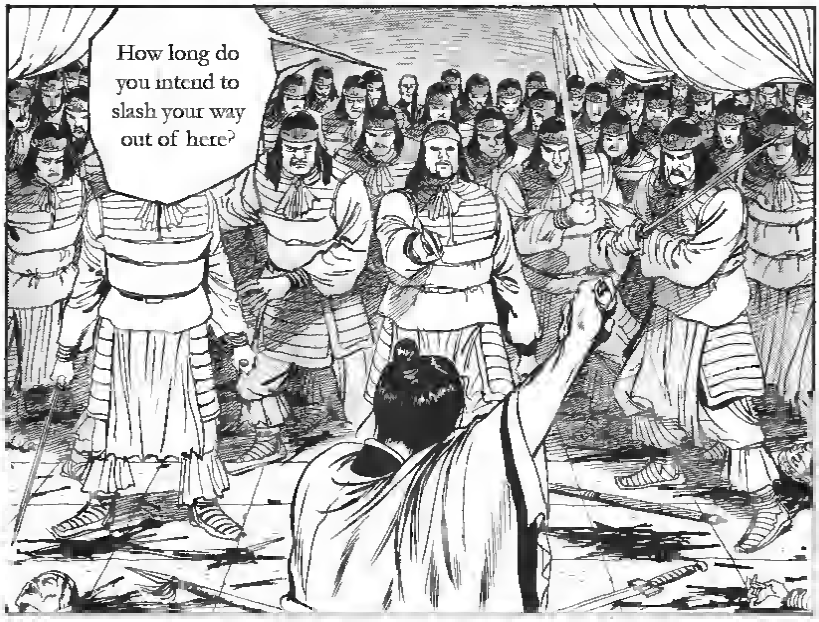
バ
バ
ドッ
ズッ


ガッ
ッッッ

ドッ
ッ
バ
ッ

ハッ
ドン
ビシッ

Boy!


How long do you intend to slash your way out of here?

その十三
水晶 燃ゆる／おわり

Chapter 14

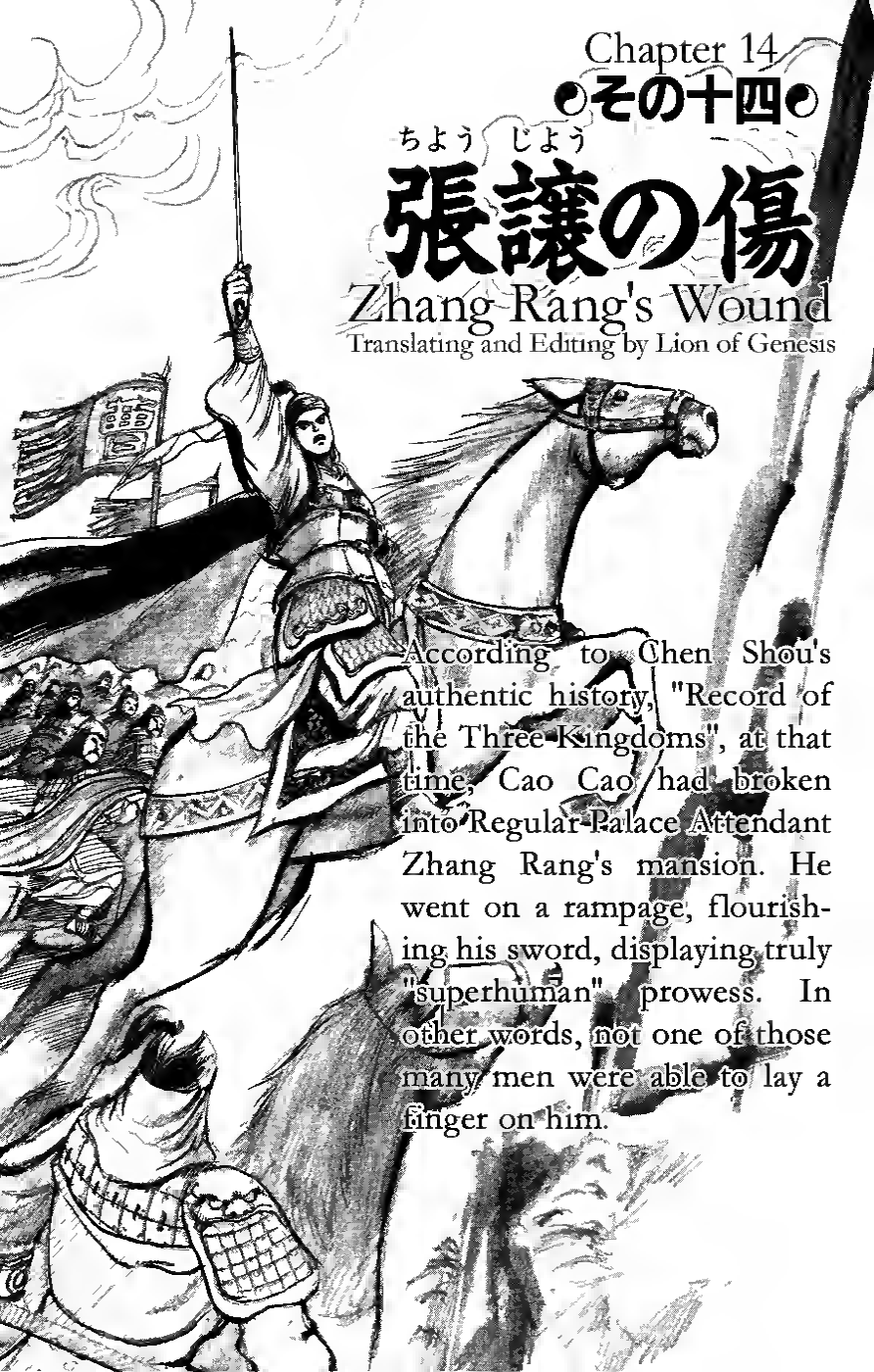
●その十四●

張譲の傷

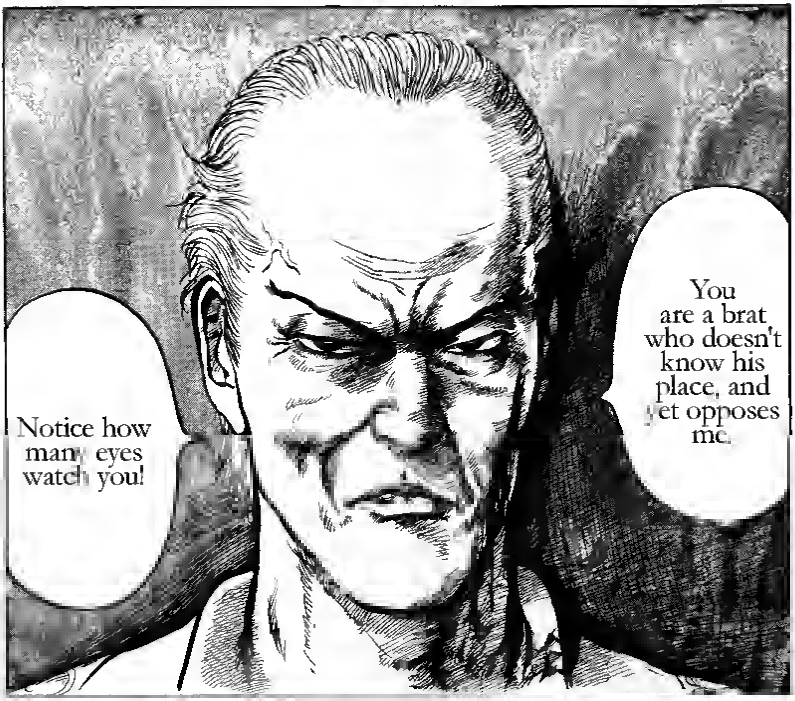
(ちょう じょう)

Zhang Rang's Wound

Translating and Editing by Lion of Genesis



According to Chen Shou's authentic history, "Record of the Three Kingdoms", at that time, Cao Cao had broken into Regular Palace Attendant Zhang Rang's mansion. He went on a rampage, flourishing his sword, displaying truly "superhuman" prowess. In other words, not one of those many men were able to lay a finger on him.


You are a brat who doesn't know his place, and yet opposes me.
Notice how many eyes watch you!

To slay one enemy, brandish your sword once.
To slay a crowd of enemies, take one spear as well.

All of you!
If you desire to become warriors under Heaven, join me, Cao Cao Mengde!

Clear my path!
!
ドドオン

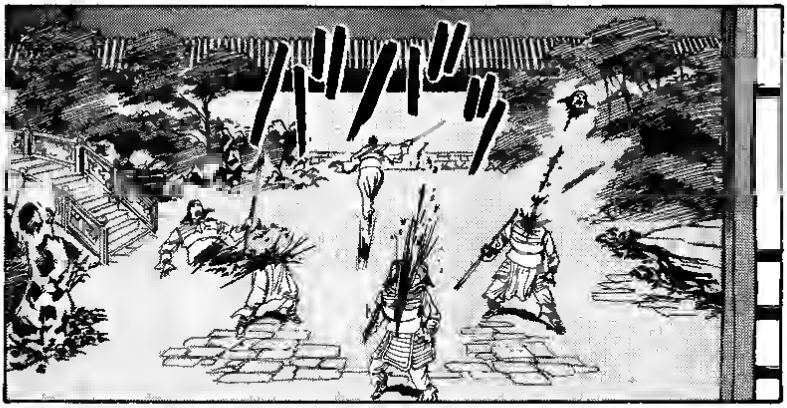
Protect me!!
Protect me! Protect me!
ガガガ

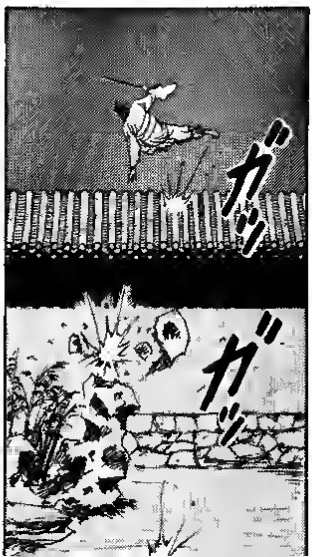
I am sorry,
Shui Jing!!

I shall survive!

ダダダーン

ガッシャーン


バリバリ


ガッ
ガッ

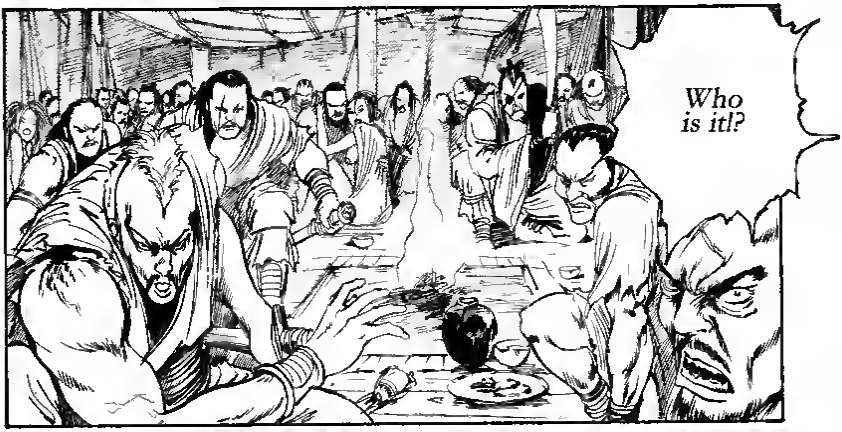
Follow him at once!
Aye!
ダダダダ
...you may bring his head only!
When you come back...

He is Cao Teng's grandson.
Now I remember.
...of those who oppose me.
I shall utterly destroy the lives.

His entire family conspires with him.
I shall eradicate all those related to him.
Yu Rang, my foot!
Assassin, my foot!
Take that girl's corpse to the northern bedroom!
He heh

はあ
はあ
はあ
はあ
I am alive!
I am alive...
Shui Jing...
Shui Jing...
Shui Jing...

バン!


Who is it!?

Huh!?

Great General !!

Live, hide under ground and wait for my orders!
Whatever happens, you must survive!
Great General
Do you not understand!?

Look! Zhang Rang's guys're pursuin' 'im!

If you do not lurk, you will all be killed!
Lurk!

A-aye

Obey me and conceal yourselves!
ガガッ

その十四 張譲の傷／おわり

Chapter 15
●その十五●
鶴雲
(かくうん)
Crane in the Clouds

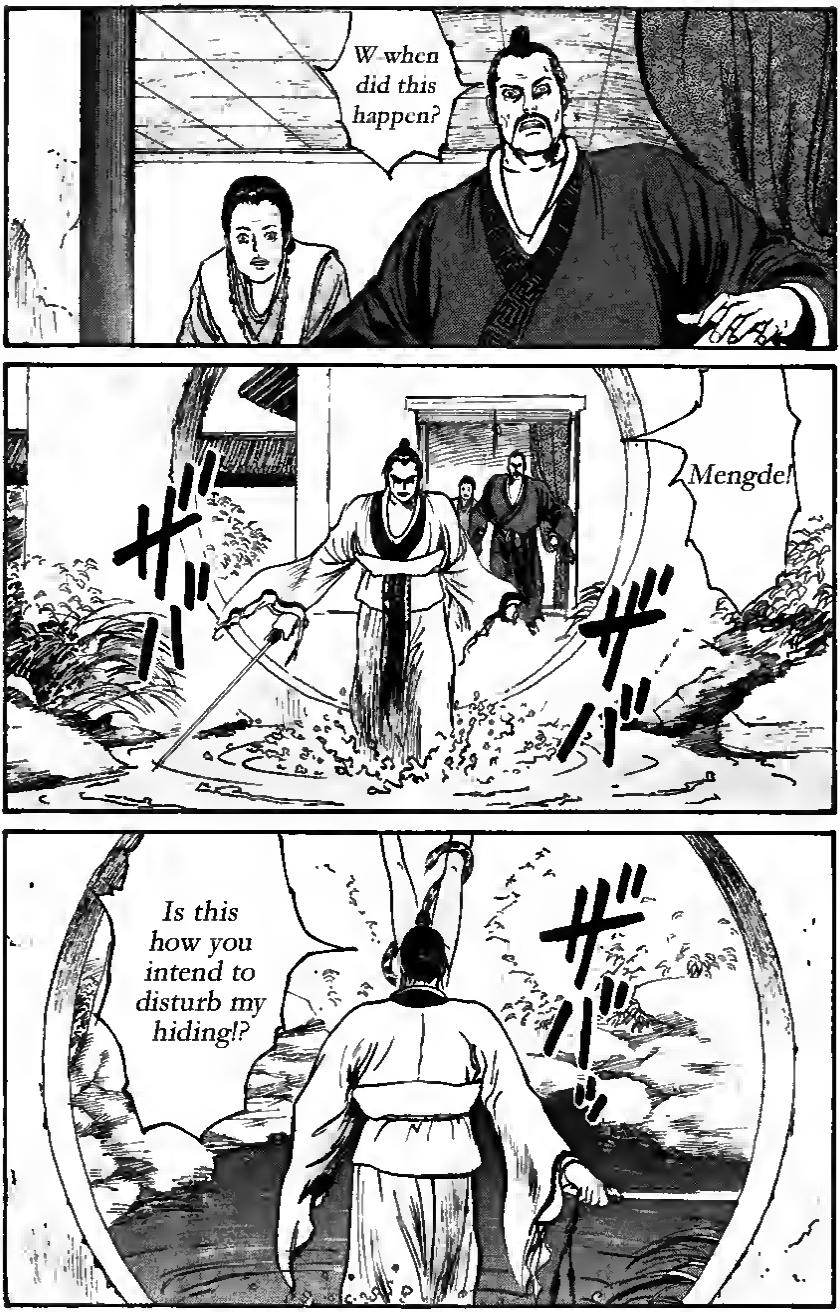
ガッガッガ

ザッ

ダッダッ

Hm?
Back in the morning again? You wasteful son, you!
Father Cao Song
Not even Zhang Rang's hand reached the Cao household, did it?
Yes.

ガッ
ガッ


W-when did this happen?
Mengde!
Is this how you intend to disturb my hiding!?

Foul Zhang Rang!!
D-did you say Zhang Rang!?

ピチャ
ピチャ
You can't possibly mean Zhang Rang, the Lord Regular Palace Attendant!
Mengde ..
ピチャ
Me-Mengde?

ドンドンドン
!

ドドドドドド…

Wh-what!?

Cao Cao Mengde! On charge of breaking into Regular Palace Attendant Zhang Rang's house as well as murdering guards from said house, you are under arrest!
Quietly accept this verdict!

When I sing the mournful tune of Shui Jing, Heaven itself sends a sudden gust for me. The voice of the flute is choked, the dream of the lover is severed. If you look carefully at the violent state of the world of brutal men...

人妖転倒是非淆
天翻地覆概而慷

Mengde!

Do hold a ceremony to ready her soul for the afterlife.

Uh!

I entrust you with her burial in the Cao graveyard

Mengde!

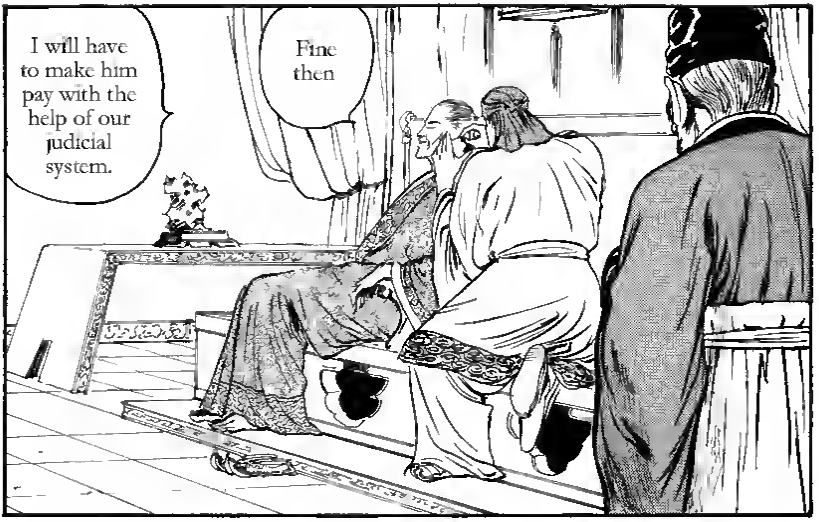
...you see man and malice tumble, right and wrong mix. As long as Heaven and Earth do not overthrow one another, my heart shall remain firm

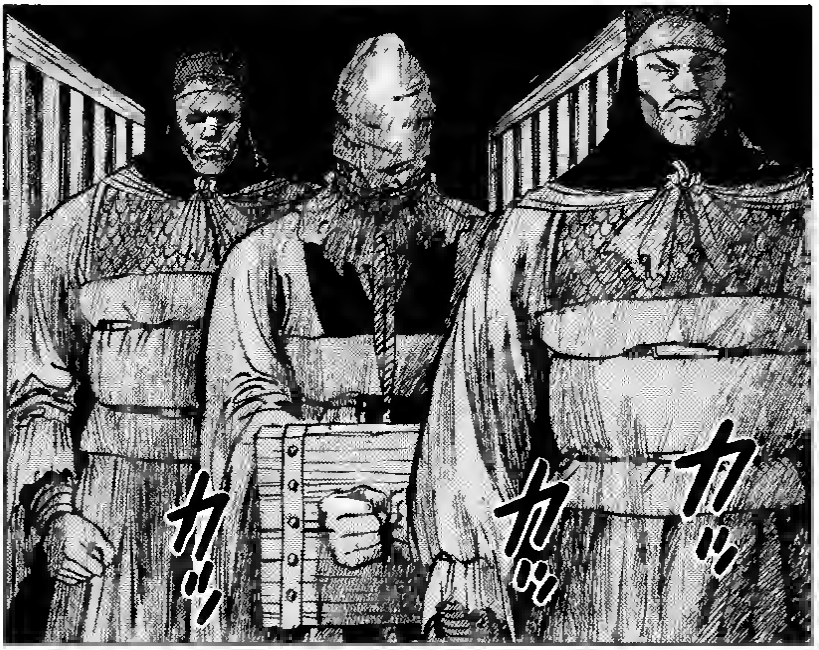
Father! Mother! All that which is happening to my person right now is a trial granted to me by Heaven itself.
Do not uselessly worry about me!
ガッ
ぐっ
Mengde!

... do you think you would be able to judge it?
Even if you were to capture the crane in the clouds from the very sky it flies in...

Buwei = Those who capture thieves and maintain public order. They are basically the capital's police force

So he was caught by the buwei*?
What!?
They were urged by the families of the guards to take action.
Yes.
So I can't bury him myself, can I.
Tch!


I will have to make him pay with the help of our judicial system.
Fine then

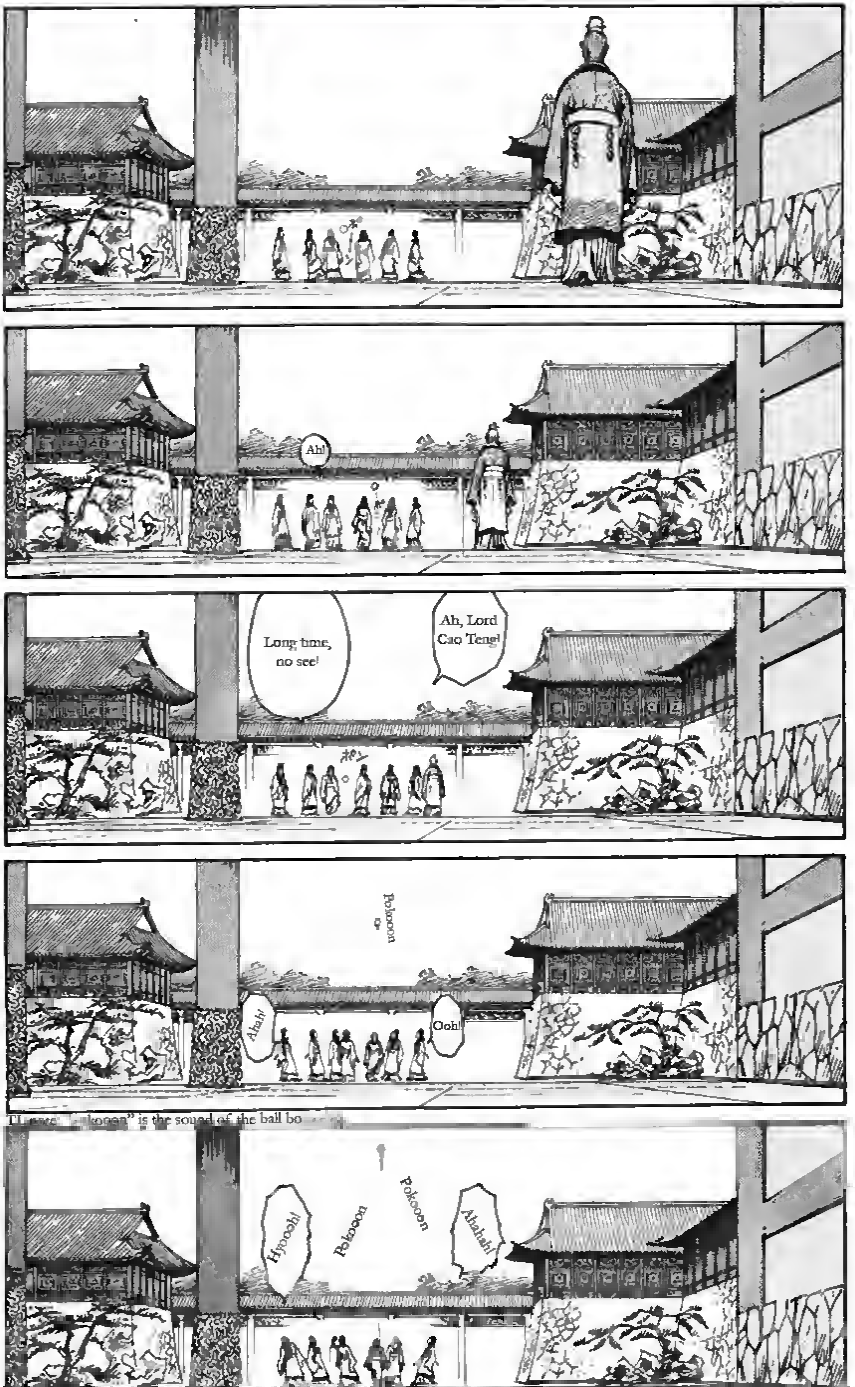

カ
カ
カ

ポコーン
Father! Are you listening to me?
Mengde is in a desperate situation!
ポコーン
He sliced the face of Zhang Rang himself!
Nobody has attracted his resentment and lived!
ポコーン
Terrible of him
He would have been better off slicing his throat
ポコーン
I wonder if the name of Cao will die with you..
ポコーン
その十五 餓雲（がうん） おわり

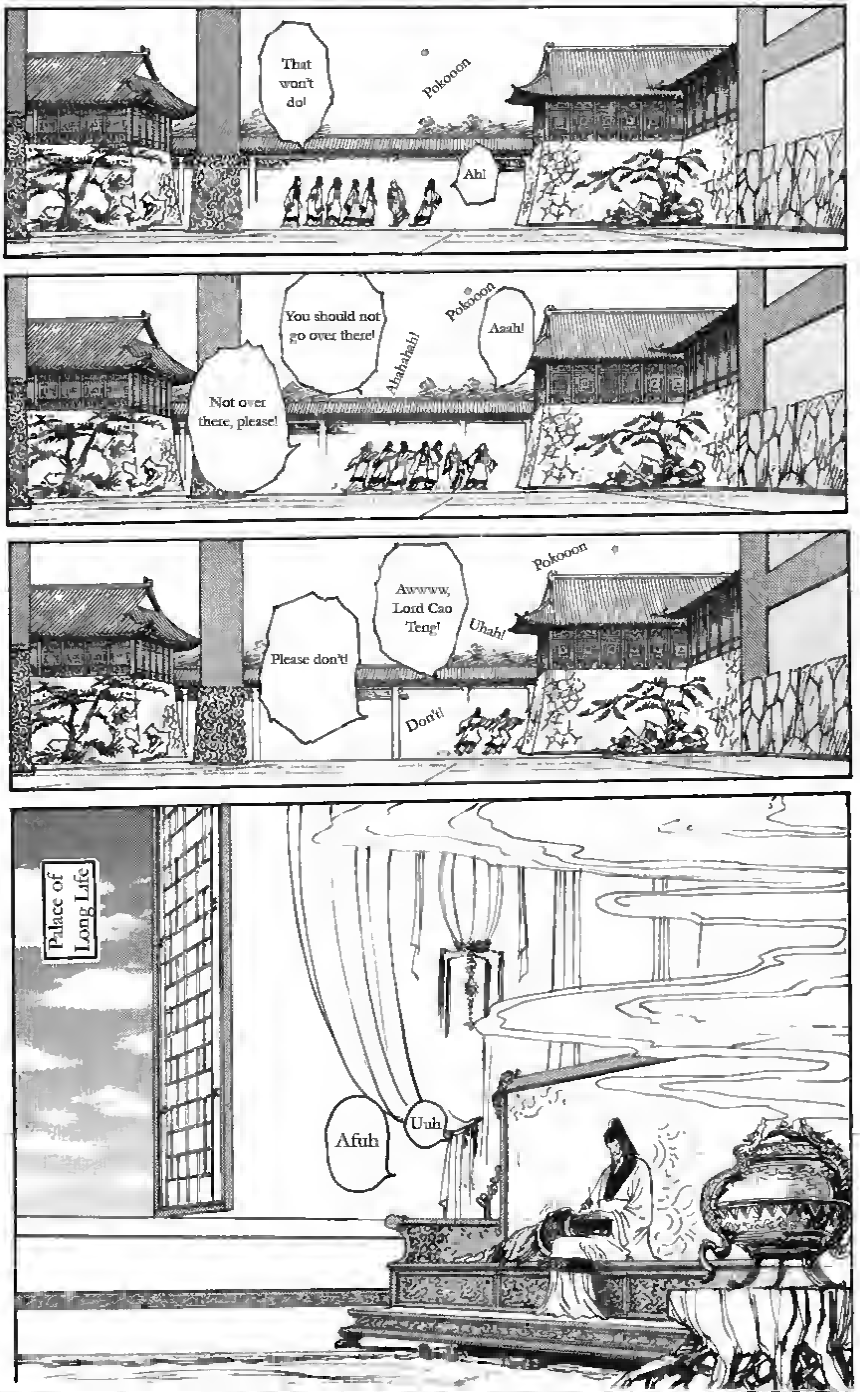
CHAPTER 16
○その十六○
帝（みかど）
THE EMPEROR

Translation and editing by Lion of Genesis

Hm?
Seems they've already begun



The sound "pokoooon" is the sound of the ball bo


That won't do!
Pokoooon
Ah!
You should not go over there!
Ahahaha!
Pokoooon
Aaah!
Not over there, please!
Awwww, Lord Cao Teng!
Uhah!
Pokoooon
Please don't!
Don't!
Palace of Long Life
Afuh
Uuh

Hehehah...

Pokooon

Ahahah...

Pokooon

Hmmm?

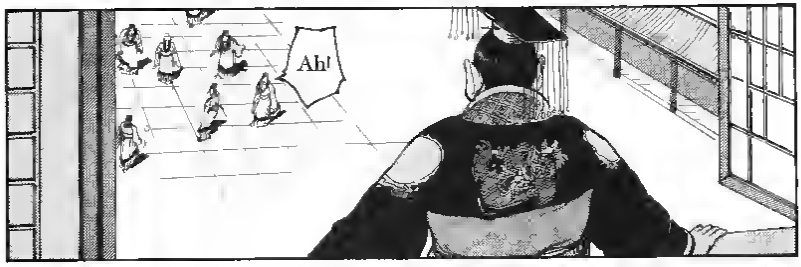
Translator's note: the Emperor speaks using a majestic plural. I'll indicate this by writing it with a capital letter.

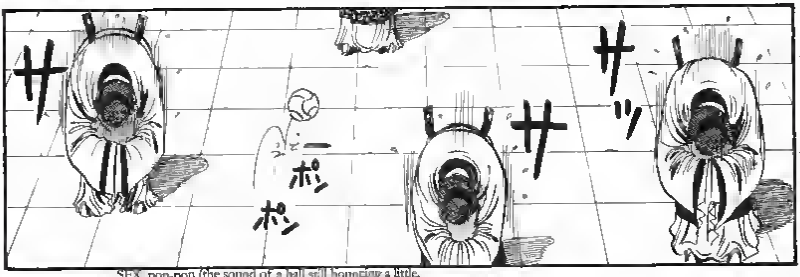
Who's having more fun than Us*?

Who is it?

The 12th Emperor of the Later Han Dynasty
Lingdi

SFX. dota-dota (the sound of a fat man walking)





SFX. sa! (the sound of people suddenly bowing)

SFX. pon-pon (the sound of a ball still bouncing a little.

SFX. koro-koro-koro. ... (the sound of a ball rolling)

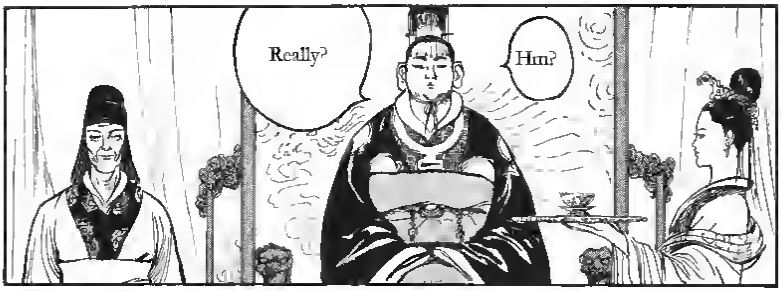
SFX. chokon (the sound of kneeling)

It's been a long time since I last saw you!
My Lord, the Son of Heaven!

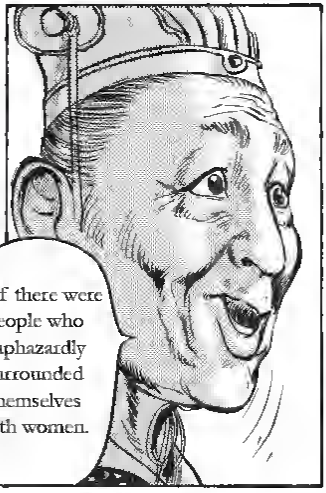
Aaaaaaah, if it isn't Cao Teng!

Hahahahah!

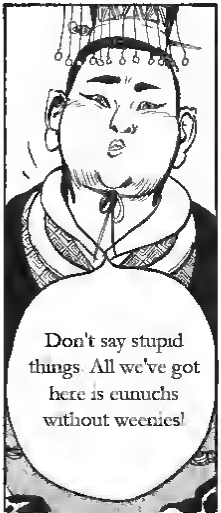
What's wrong, Cao Teng? Long time, no see
That would be because I've had a lot of work to do
Whenever I hear rumours of your Highness, a great feeling of loneliness grows within me
As such, I have at last appeared before you once more.
So that's what happened!
Nevertheless, it looks like your appearance has greatly changed in the meantime


Really?
Hm?

It is just that there is a peculiar scent in your vicinity
The Son of Heaven knows no change


As if there were people who haphazardly surrounded themselves with women.

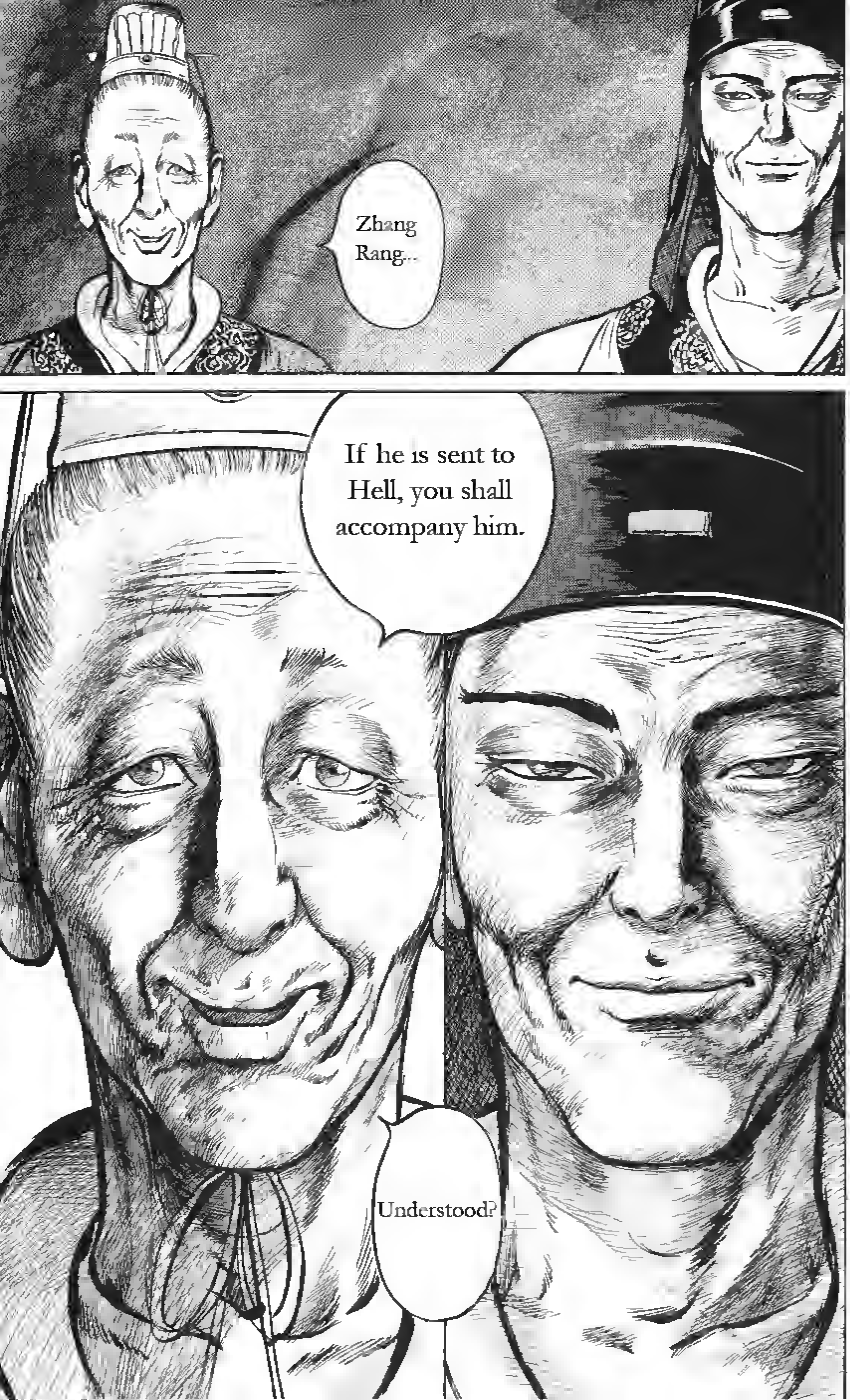
SFX: sniff sniff (you don't need me to tell you what that means)

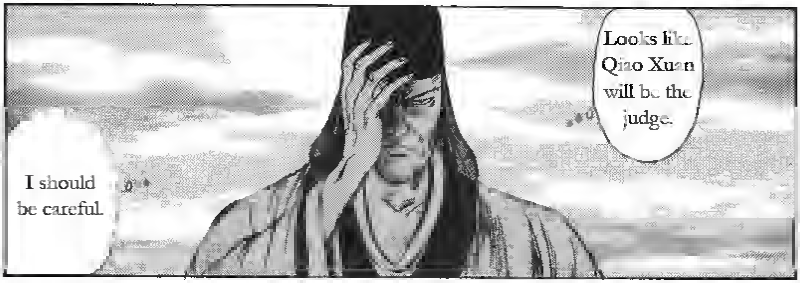

Don't say stupid things. All we've got here is eunuchs without weenies!

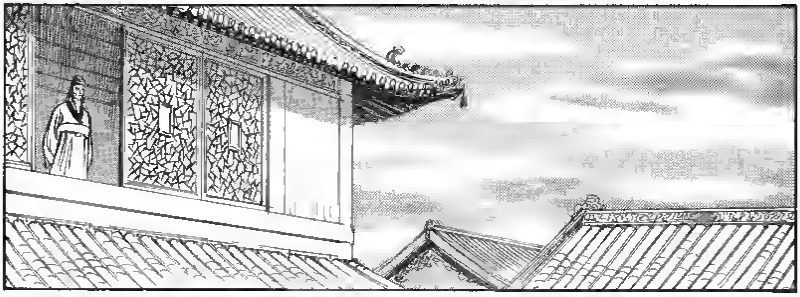
Semen becomes an inner poison when it is unable to exit the body It manifests itself as a scent coming out of every pore.
You see, one of them is the possessor of a most abnormal kind of sexual desire.
Even if they lose their penis, their sexual desire does not go away
Uuh...
If he is found, he should be immediately banished!
Such a person is certainly unforgivable!

Yes.
It shall be as you wish.
Absolutely!
Right, Rang?
Hohohoh! Such a vulgar eunuch would deserve to be hanged, wouldn't he?
Cao Teng, should you find that man, let Us know as soon as possible!
Yes, Sire!
Mhm

Yes, Sire, I am most happy to hear this!
Cao Teng, please come again!
What do you intend to do to my grandson?


Zhang Rang...
If he is sent to Hell, you shall accompany him.
Understood?


Looks like Qiao Xuan will be the judge.
I should be careful.

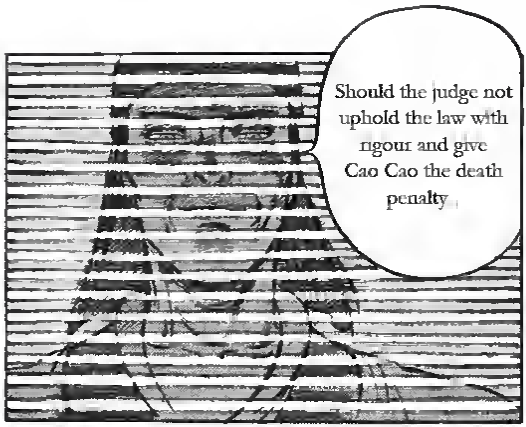


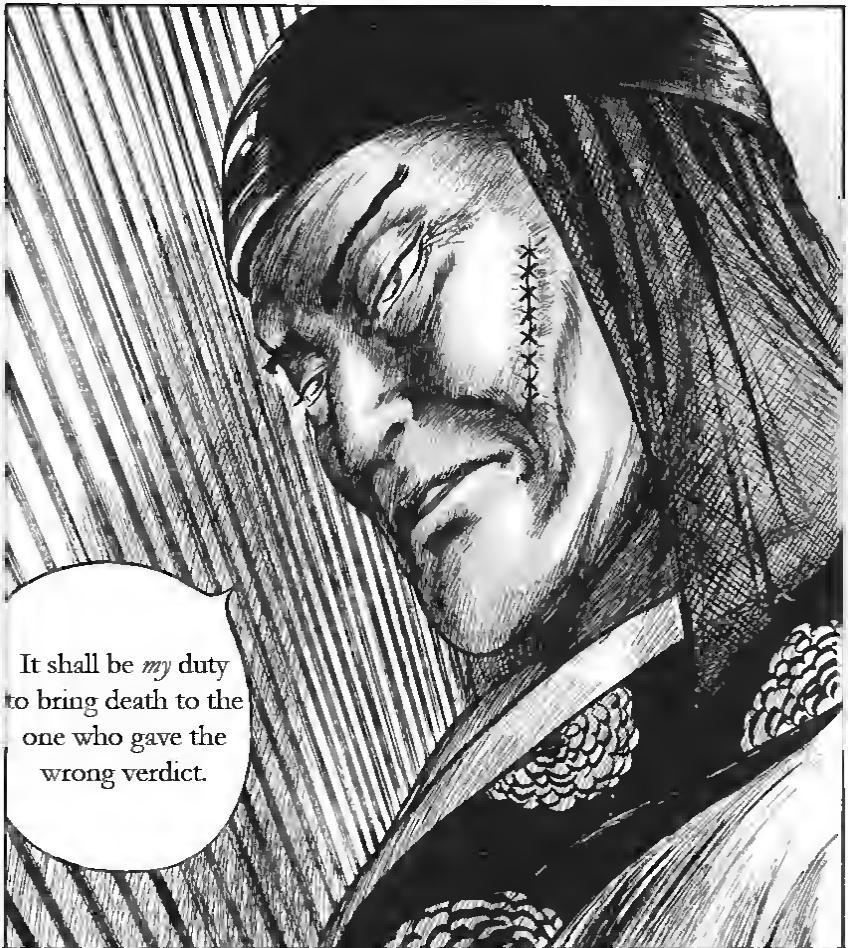
You are known to be most severe when fulfilling your duties
I shall be looking forward for tomorrow's judgement as well, Mister "Demon of Luoyang".

A scrap from the highest official
I would desire no futile expectations.
SFX: hita (the sound of stepping)
ヒタ
Modesty, sir, modesty.
The position of Grand Commandant* is still ahead of me, isn't it?
ヒタ
The offences of that boy named Cao Cao are most obvious.
ヒタ
No penalty other than decapitation would be valid

*Grand Commandant = The position held by the one who rules over the army. Among the "Three Excellencies", this is the greatest.

Translator's note: See Page 182 of volume 1 for an explanation of the Three Excellencies.


Should the judge not uphold the law with rigour and give Cao Cao the death penalty...


It shall be *my* duty to bring death to the one who gave the wrong verdict.

You're the last one

You won't make no impression by "takin' the extenuatin' circumstances into consideration" or by puttin' money under the table, so you'd better be ready.
Tomorrow, you'll get interrogated by none other than Luoyang most merciless of officials, Lord Qiao Xuan himself!

その十六
帝 おわり

SFX: Gachan (the sound of handcuffs)

CHAPTER 17
●その十七●

鬼神
THE DEMON

Translation and editing by Lion of Genesis

SFX: Gwaaaah (probably the prisoner screaming his lungs out)

SFX: Gu! (sword stalking his neck)

ガッ

キィィあああ

SFX: Gishiaaaaaa (Jo...!?)

SFX: Gishiiiii (more blood)

TCH!

ギィィィィ

SFX: Bura! Bura! (prisoner shaking his head)

ブラッブラッ

SFX: Gu! Gu! Gu! (sword repeatedly thrust to top head on)

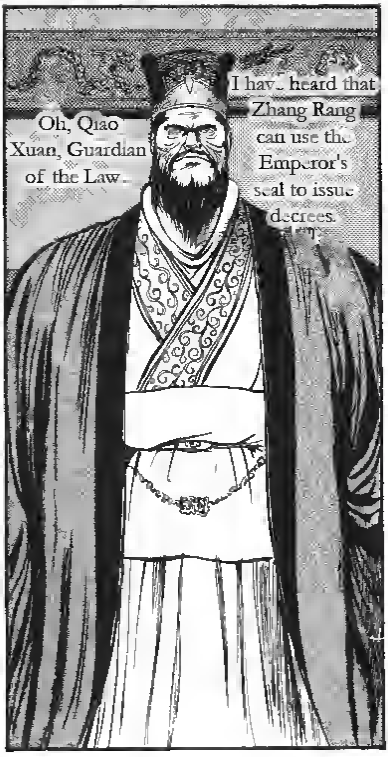
Accept the retribution for your crimes!!

ガッガッガッ

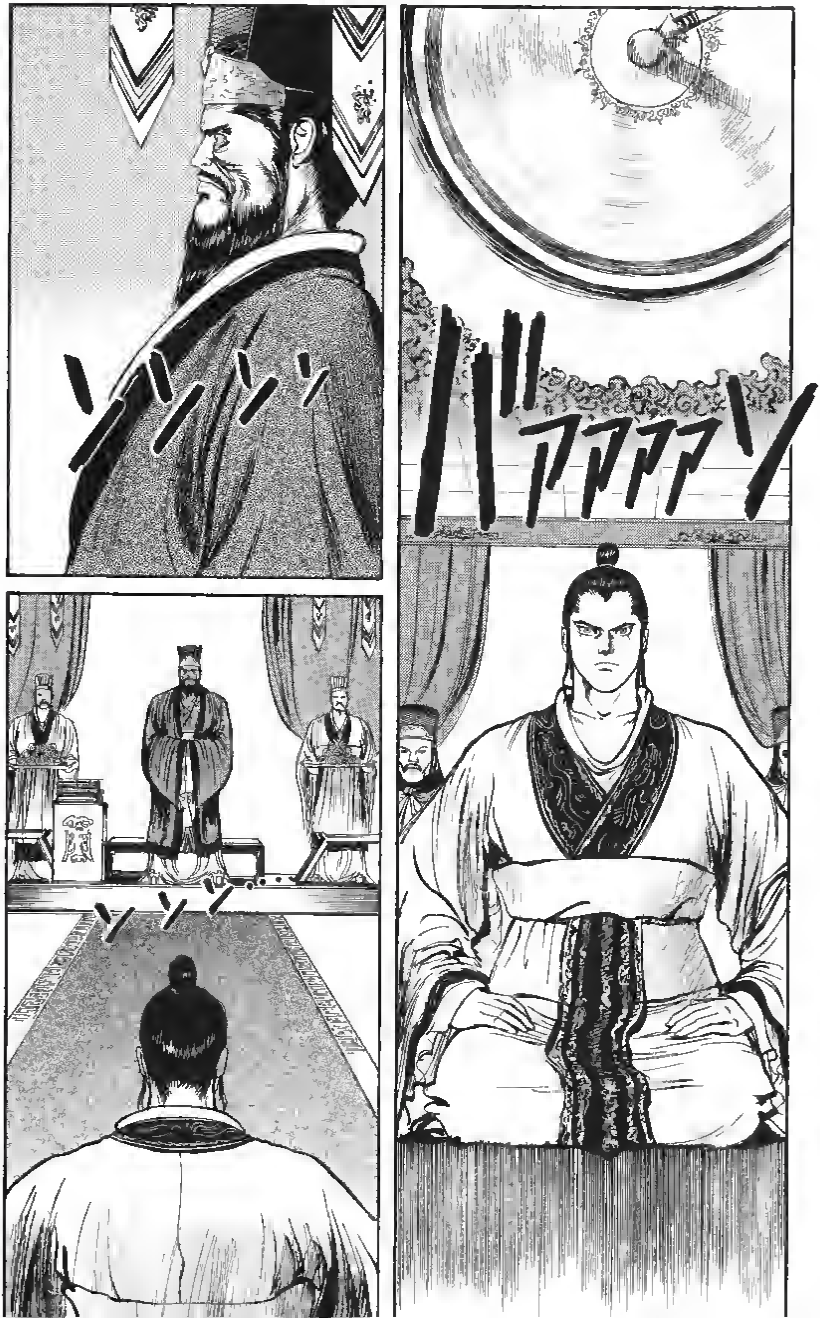
This guy is another prisoner who was judged by Lord Qiao Xuan.

Same'll happen to you in a few moments!
How does it feel?

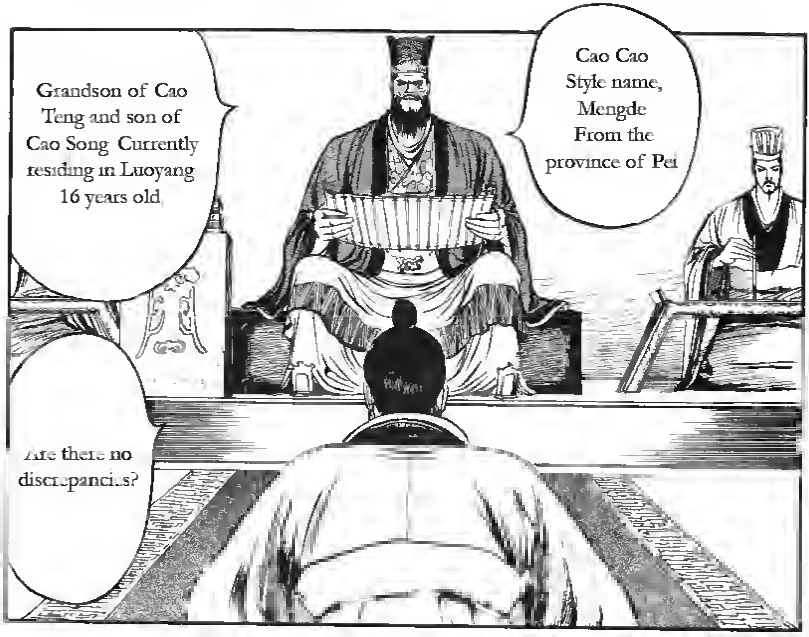
Will you be able to stand against decrees...
And work for the Law alone?


Oh, Qiao Xuan, Guardian of the Law.
I have heard that Zhang Rang can use the Emperor's seal to issue decrees.

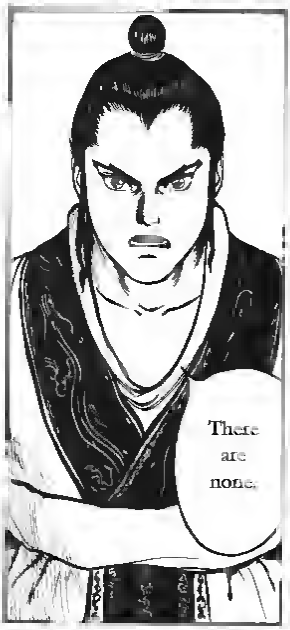
SFX. Baaaaaaaaannnnnnn (the sound of a gong gonging?)

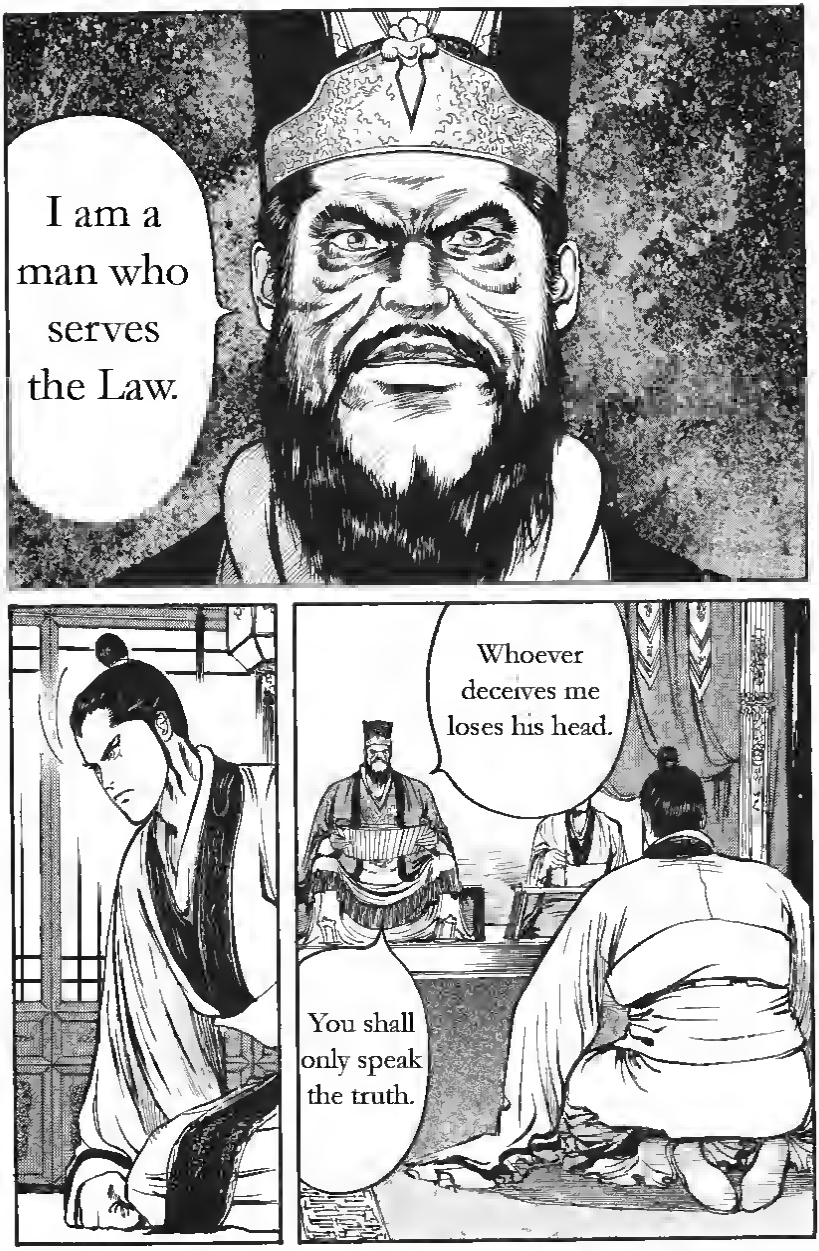


SFX Baaaaaannn (more gonging)


Grandson of Cao Teng and son of Cao Song. Currently residing in Luoyang. 16 years old.
Cao Cao. Style name, Mengde. From the province of Pei.
Are there no discrepancies?

Before we start deliberating, there is one thing I shall tell you.

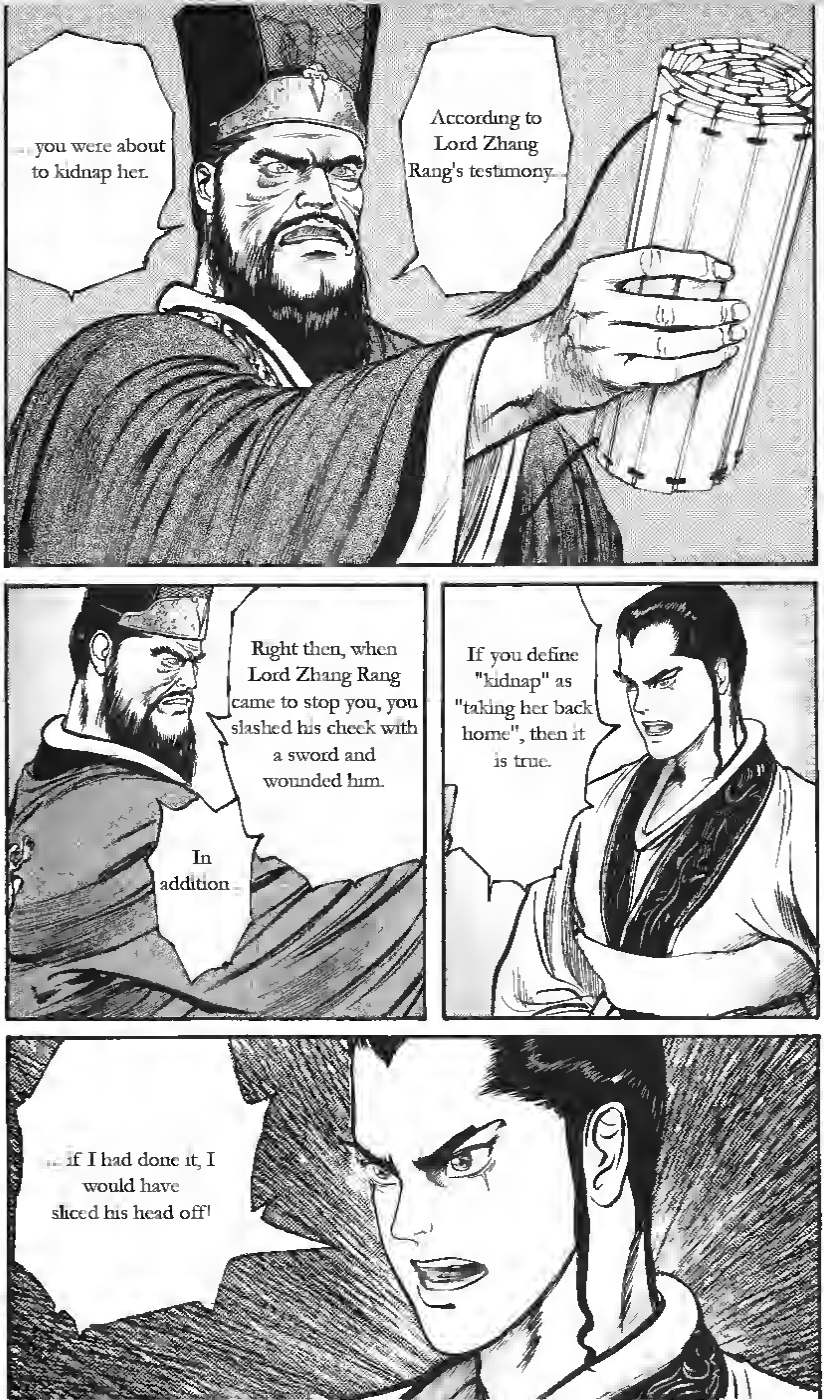

There are none.


I am a man who serves the Law.
Whoever deceives me loses his head.
You shall only speak the truth.

You have recently trespassed on the property of the Lord Regular Palace Attendant Zhang Rang
... have taken a servant named Shui Jing captive...
... and have killed and wounded eighteen men and subsequently run away. Are there any discrepancies?
It is inaccurate!
And where would these inaccuracies be?

First of all, I was not trespassing!
I entered unarmed through the front door and asked to be taken to Zhang Rang
Also, I came to recover Shui Jing, whom I wanted to marry! I did not take her captive!
Zhang Rang had no reason not to accept my request
... and yet he rejected it and had his guards draw their swords against me
If one were to say that I killed fifteen men and injured three, I would indeed confirm.
However, according to the law, this was legitimate defence!

He should be convicted for this!
After having just killed Shui Jing, that foul eunuch disgraced her corpse!
GA!
ガッ
PACHI!
バ
チッ
DAN!
ダン
Instead, it is Zhang Rang who is at fault!


According to Lord Zhang Rang's testimony...
...you were about to kidnap her.
If you define "kidnap" as "taking her back home", then it is true.
Right then, when Lord Zhang Rang came to stop you, you slashed his cheek with a sword and wounded him.
In addition...
...if I had done it, I would have sliced his head off!

In a frenzy, you killed Shui Jing as well.
Many guards confirm Lord Zhang Rang's testimony!
GASHI!
then yes, I killed Shui Jing
I was going to marry her and I came one day late. If that is my mistake...
You're the only one who is defending you!
The only one to deny it in this world is your shout.

Is there anyone else who has seen this, other than you?
Or what?
Who is it?
There is.

Heaven itself.

その十七
鬼神　おわり

Translator's note: a fayi is a kind of garment worn by Taoist priests. According to a book on Beijing opera costumes, this is what Zhuge Liang wears. Incidentally, this cover page is very similar to his depiction in various media. However, as indicated by the signs underneath the eyes and by the writing on the flags, this is, in fact, Cao Cao.

HEAVEN'S FAYI

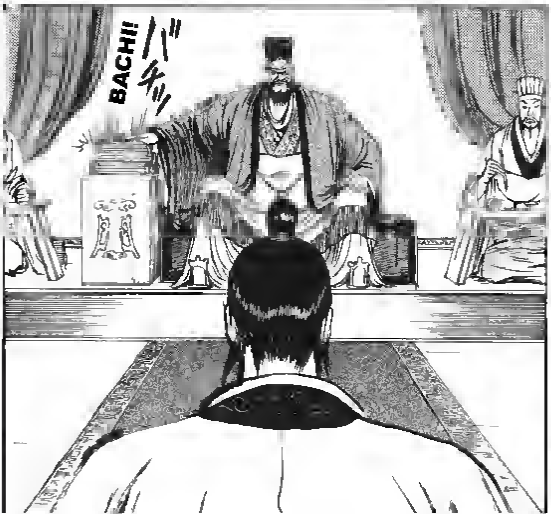
CHAPTER 18

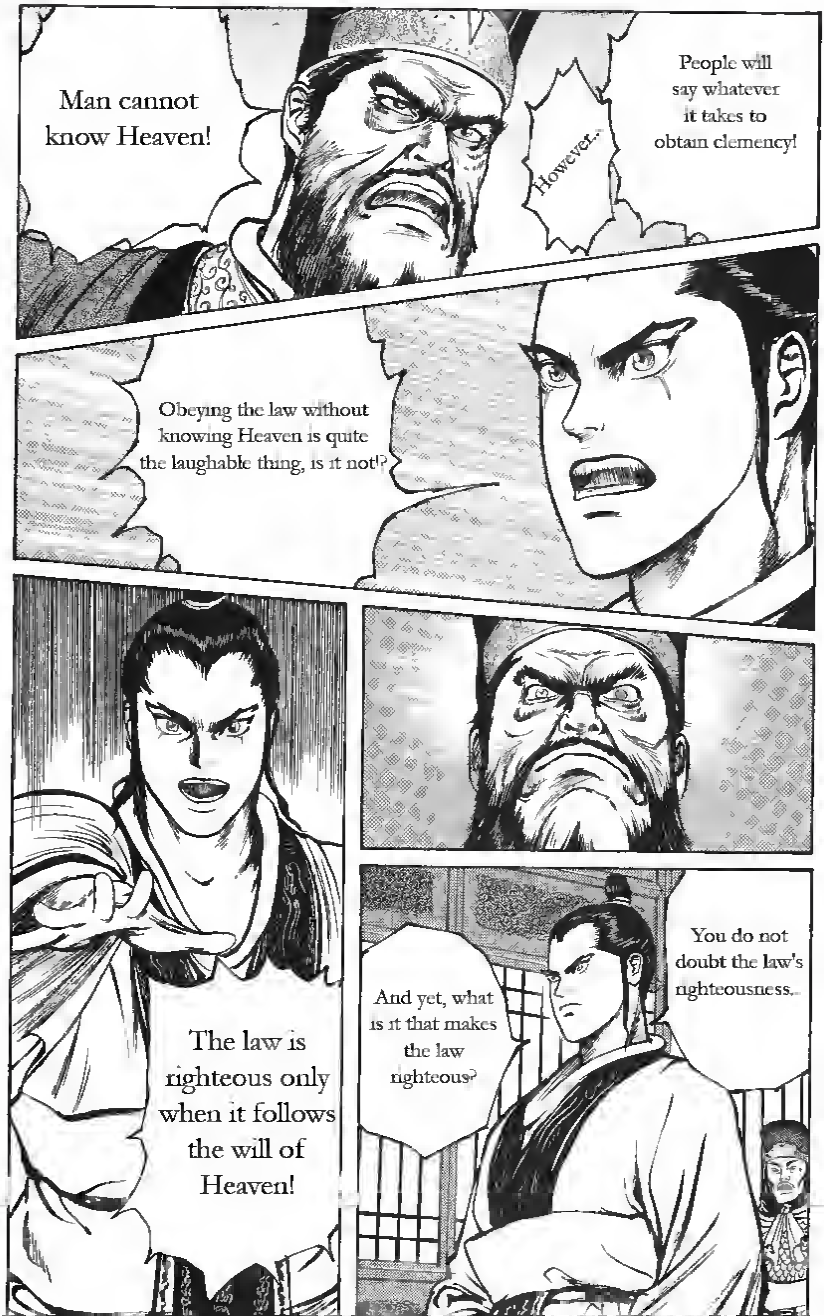
その十八 天の法衣

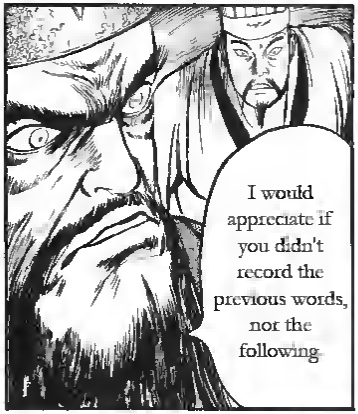
*Cao Cao's family name

Those guards may have sealed Shu Jing's lips and the crafty courtier* may be spouting lies
... but Heaven shall not be deceived.

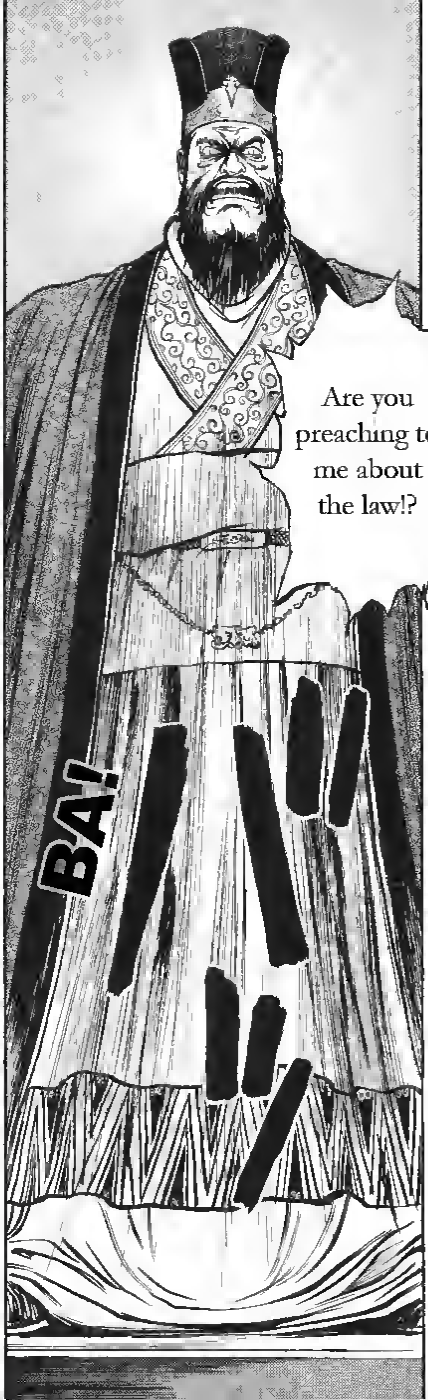
*Crafty courtier = he is referring to those who flatter their masters. (author's note)

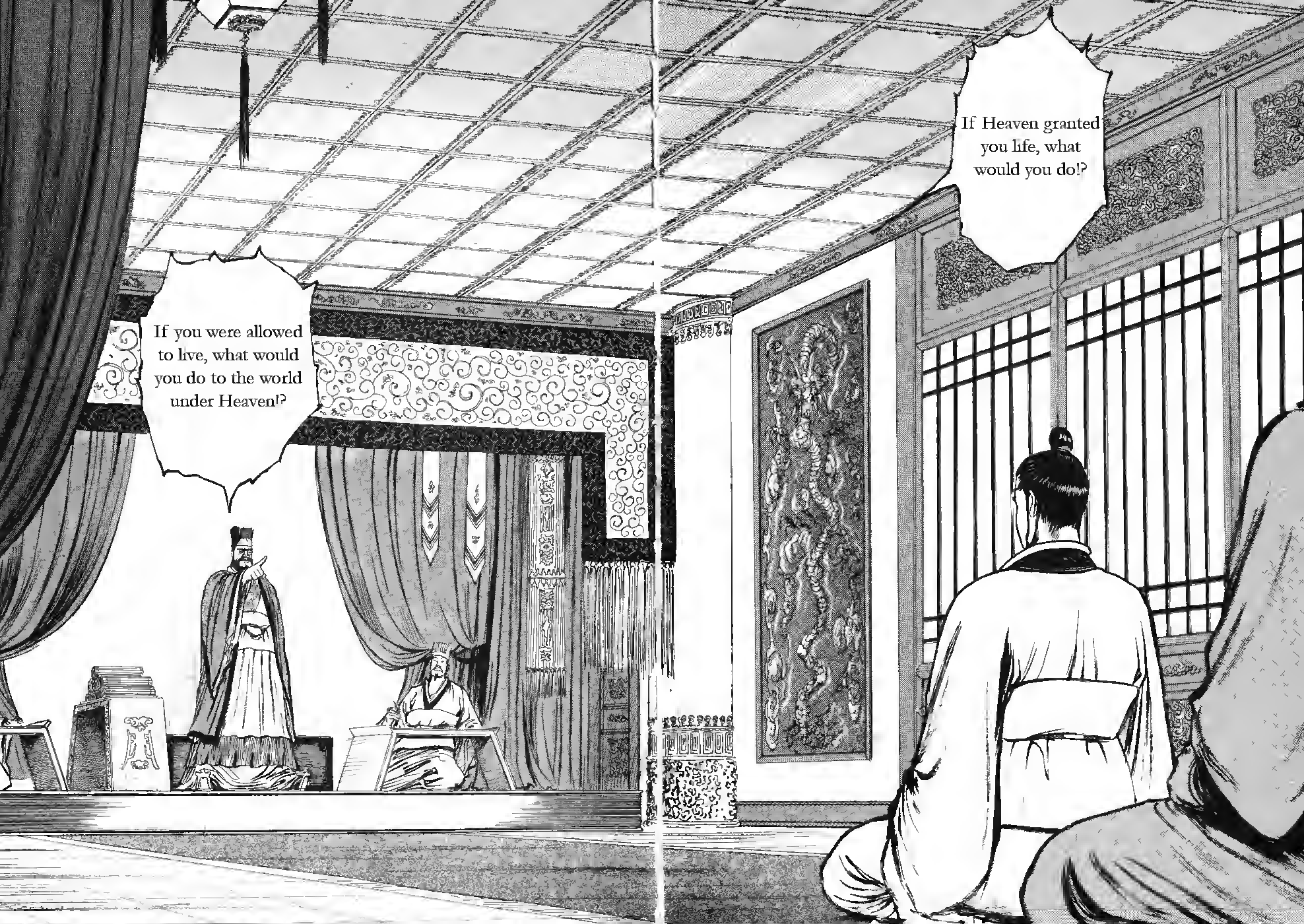



Man cannot know Heaven!
However...
People will say whatever it takes to obtain clemency!
Obeying the law without knowing Heaven is quite the laughable thing, is it not!?
The law is righteous only when it follows the will of Heaven!
And yet, what is it that makes the law righteous?
You do not doubt the law's righteousness.


I would appreciate if you didn't record the previous words, nor the following.

DAN!


Are you preaching to me about the law!?
BA!


If you were allowed to live, what would you do to the world under Heaven!?
If Heaven granted you life, what would you do!?

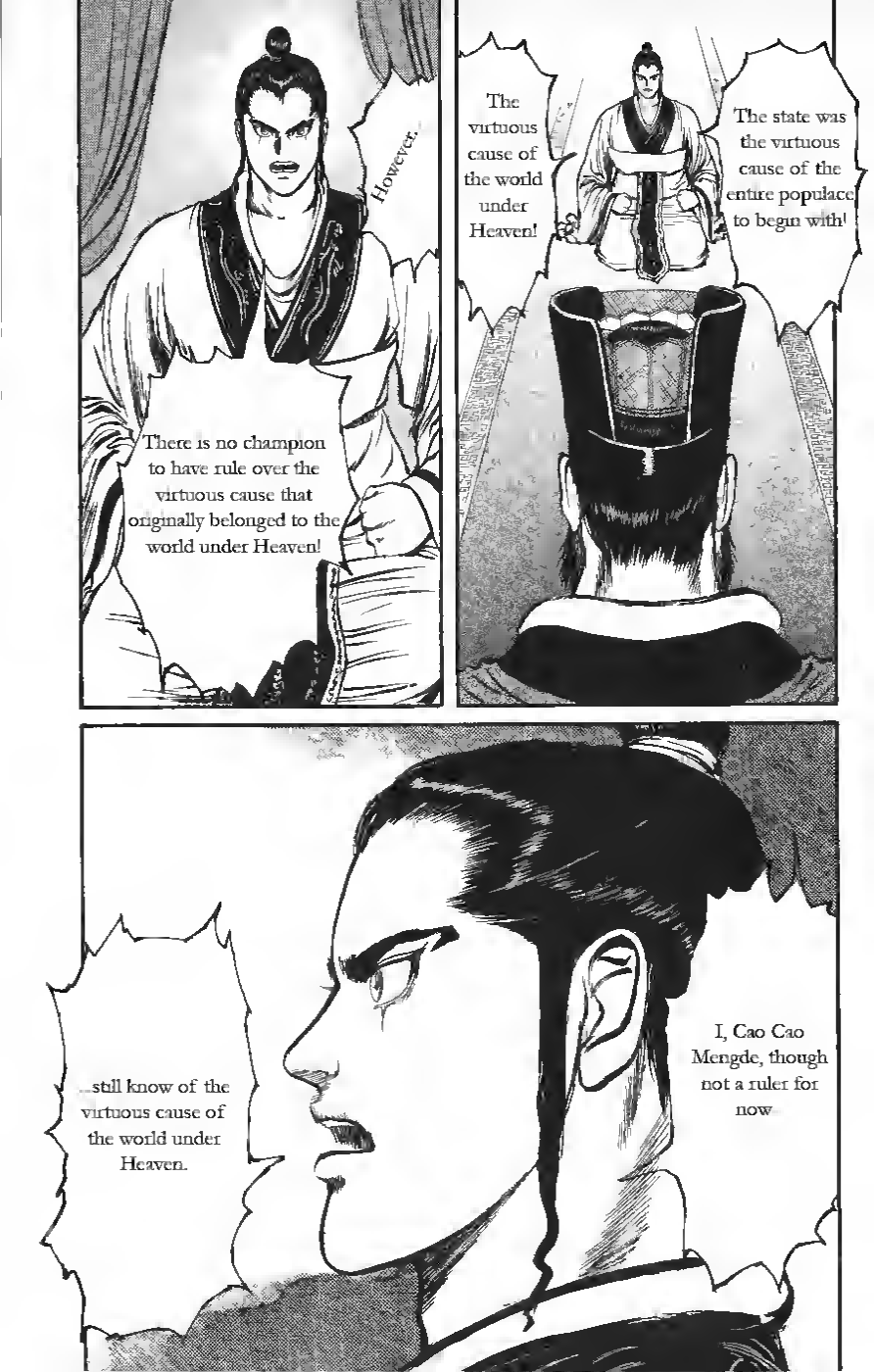
Heaven itself cannot testify!
However
You speak of the law
You speak of Heaven.
Cao Cao
I have one last question for you

The Imperial Family is disordered. The land has fallen ill.
The Han Dynasty has ruled for 400 years.

If this world is not one of beasts and brutes, then what should it be called!?

The populace is needy, yet evil eunuchs and corrupt officials lust for more profit
The rulers have no ambition. Maternal relatives and eunuchs bring great harm. The world under Heaven is filled with hatred and discontent.

If new pillars of righteousness shall not be placed, then there is no justice under Heaven!
If this world shall not be judged...


However,
There is no champion to have rule over the virtuous cause that originally belonged to the world under Heaven!
The virtuous cause of the world under Heaven!
The state was the virtuous cause of the entire populace to begin with!
I, Cao Cao Mengde, though not a ruler for now
...still know of the virtuous cause of the world under Heaven.

If Heaven were to grant me a chance...
... I would go on to govern the land under Heaven!

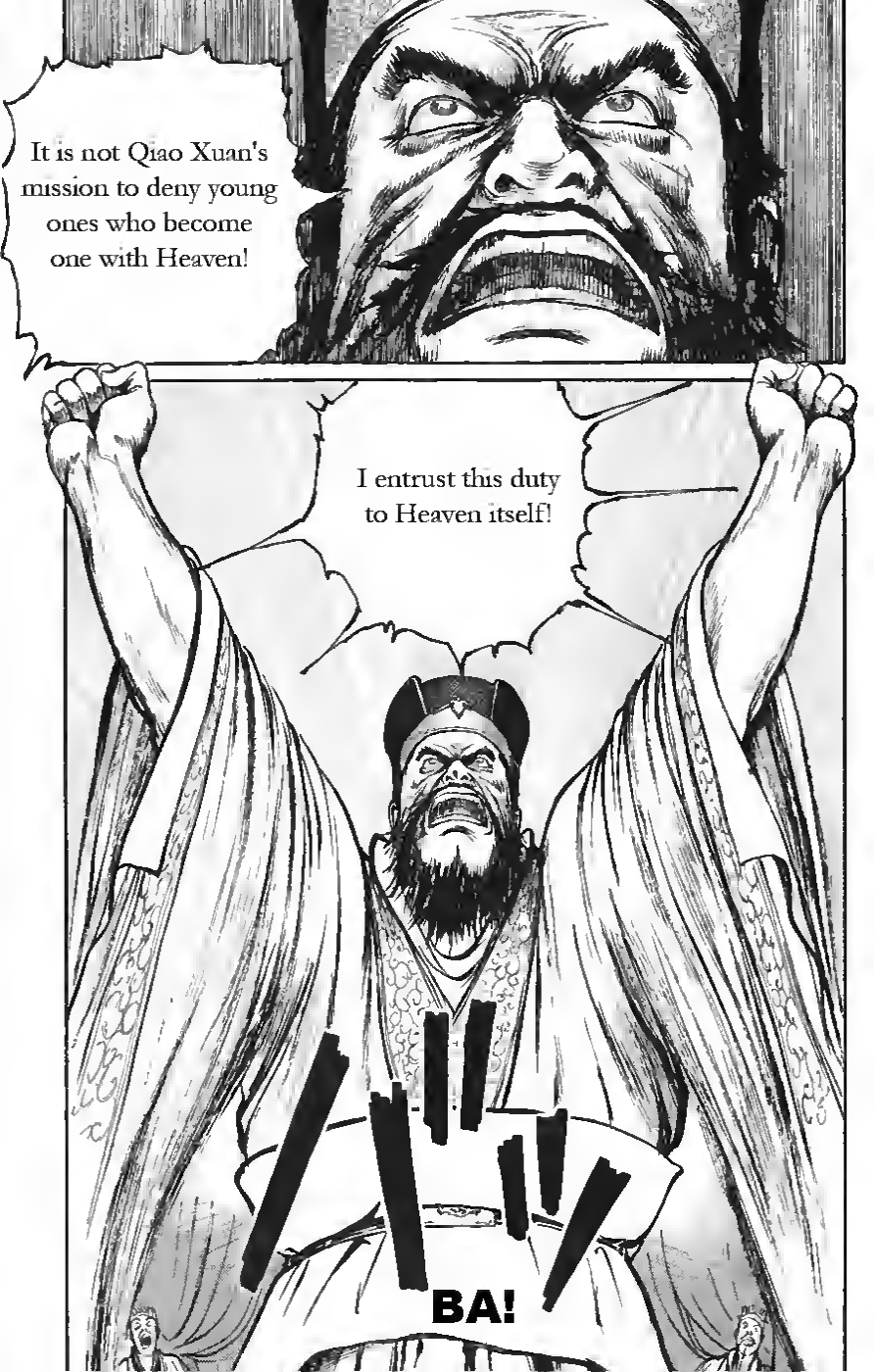
どん
DON!
どん
DON!
どん
DON!
どん
DON!
どん
DON!
どん
DON!

BASA!

ふぁ…
fuaa…

*Translator's note. "the garment of the law" is written with the same characters as the titular *fayi*

Although I may not know what sort of seed you may be
for you could very well be of the same kind as the wicked rebels in peaceful times
... it is, however, as you said, this world is in troubled times
You plan to become a hero.
Still, should you become one, would you be able to rule in such troubled times!?
People of these troubled times could even call you a "wicked hero".
However!


It is not Qiao Xuan's mission to deny young ones who become one with Heaven!
I entrust this duty to Heaven itself!
BA!

Stand up!
Cao Cao!
GABA!

Leave!

その十八
天の法衣　おわり

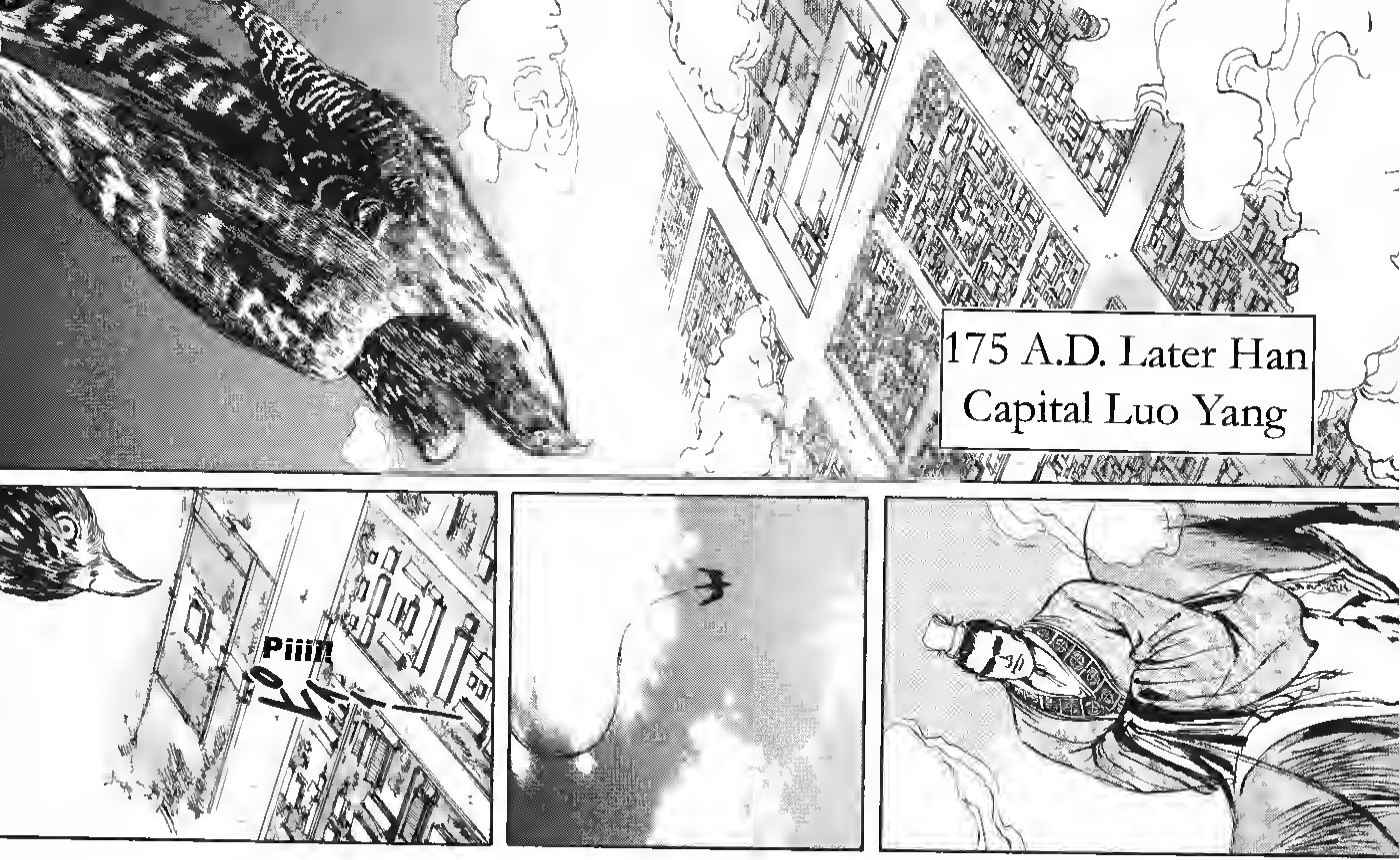
CHAPTER 19

●その十九●

鷹と門

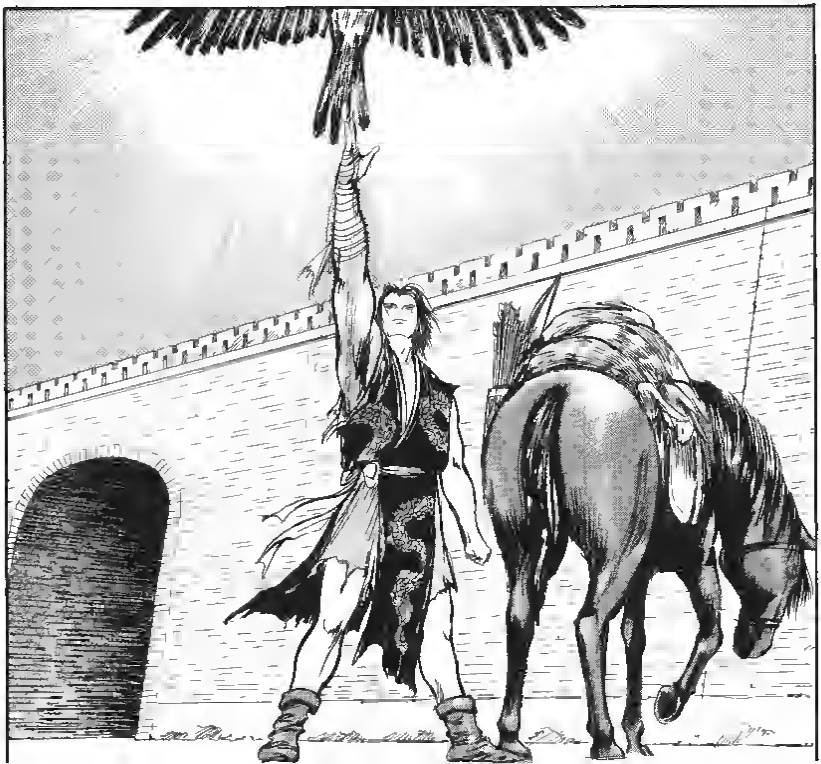
THE HAWK AND THE GATE

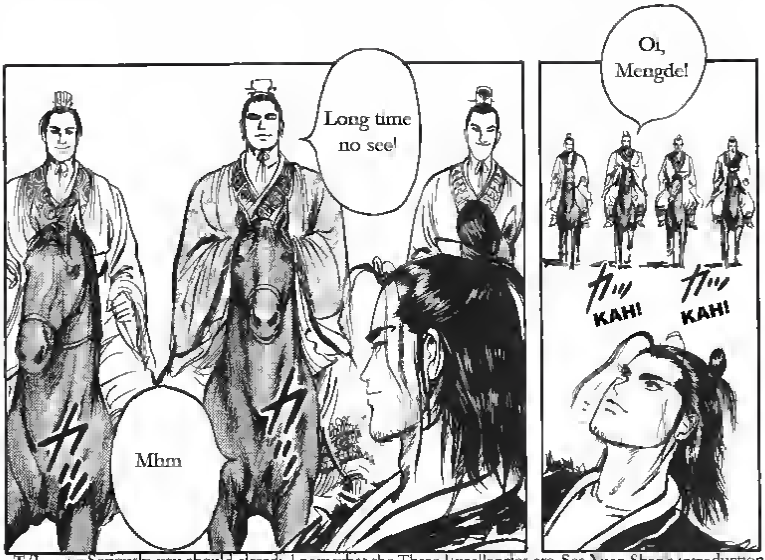
Translation and editing by Lion of Genesis


175 A.D. Later Han
Capital Luo Yang
Piiii
Piiii

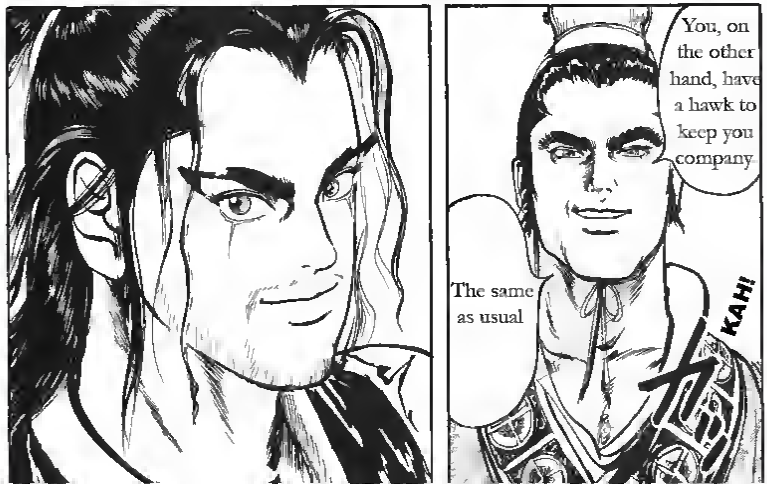
Has something happened, Yuan Shao, milord?
Aye!
There's a guy who's doing falconry even though tomorrow is his first attendance
I think I'll go greet him

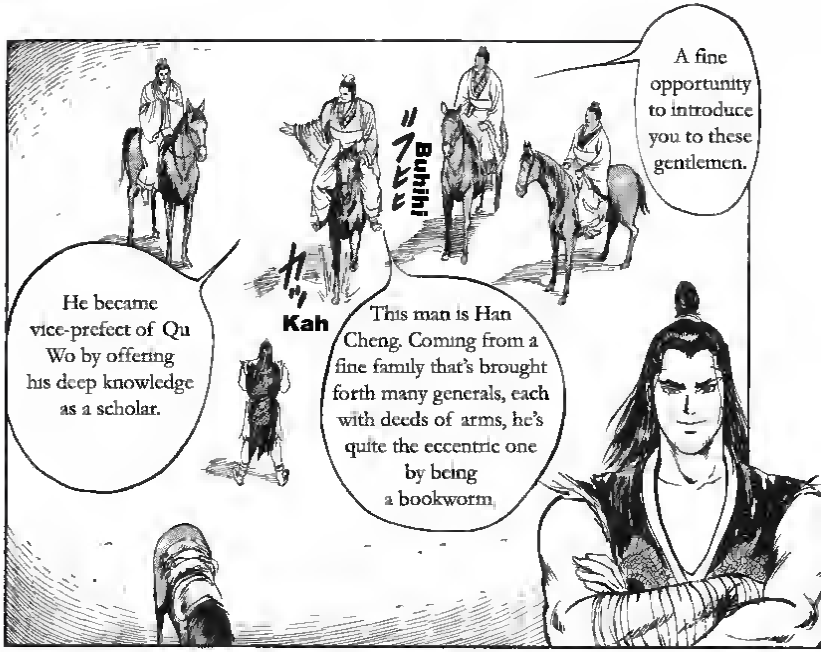
Cao Cao Mengde
had turned 20.

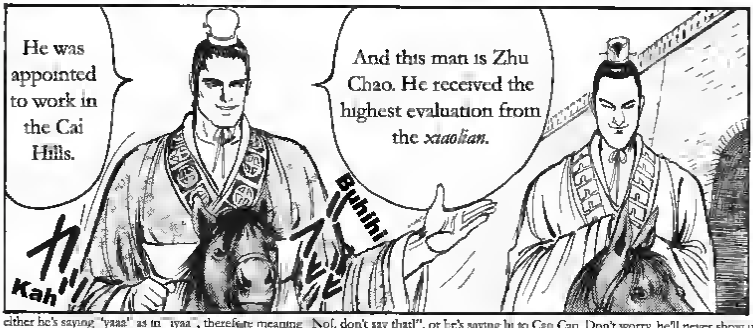




T/L note: Seriously, you should already know what the Three Excellencies are. See Yuan Shao's introduction




A fine opportunity to introduce you to these gentlemen.
Buhihi!
Kah
He became vice-prefect of Qu Wo by offering his deep knowledge as a scholar.
This man is Han Cheng. Coming from a fine family that's brought forth many generals, each with deeds of arms, he's quite the eccentric one by being a bookworm.


He was appointed to work in the Cai Hills.
And this man is Zhu Chao. He received the highest evaluation from the *xiaolian*.
Buhihi!
Kah

Xiaolian: The institution through which the Capital recommends excellent and talented men in the region

*T/L note: either he's saying "yaaa" as in "iyaa", therefore meaning "No[, don't say that]", or he's saying hi to Cao Cao. Don't worry, he'll never show up again.

He's been appointed in Liangzhou as minister Ci Shi's secretary.
And now, a man who needs no introduction, the eldest son of the noble Zhang family, Zhang Hong
やあ!*
Kah
Buhihi!

Anyway, you're the most successful man in Luoyang, after all.
Flattering you, who have become prefect of Puyang in one bound, would only tickle you, at most!
Indeed!
Compared to the Yuan family, a *Sishi Sangong, we are but mist.
Lord Yuan Shao, could you please not call my family noble?
*Sishi Sangong = means that the family has produced four members who've held the Three Excellencers.
Knowing the true abilities of you gentlemen, you should think nothing of my getting this post from the start, shouldn't you?
Now, now, you're saying quite a lot for a mere prefecture in Puyang.
Anyway, Mengde.
You seem to be at ease, but what position *were* you given?
Quite the confident one, mate!
Look! He's showing his true colors!
Well, I guess you're right...
はっはっはっ
Hahahaha!
Hahahaha!
You're the same!

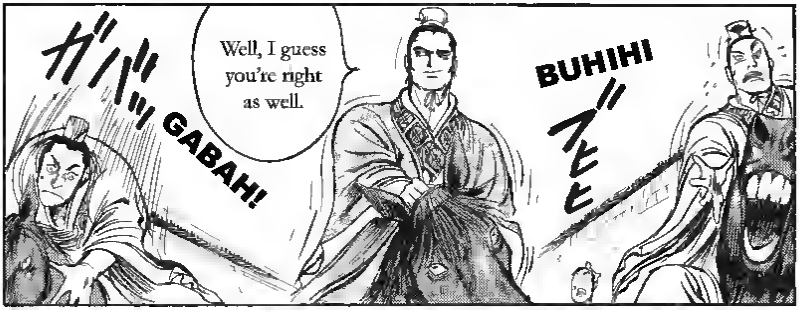
Ehl?
Guard captain at the North Gate?
Was this the only duty left?
Why did you become such a low government official!?
Your grandfather is a great eunuch who's served under four emperors!
North Buwei.
whistle
I picked it.
W-what were you thinking!? You're quite foolish, aren't you?

You shall be hearing rumors of this fool from your office at the prefecture in Puyang!
Yuan Shao!
BA!
Uwah!
HIHIHIHIN

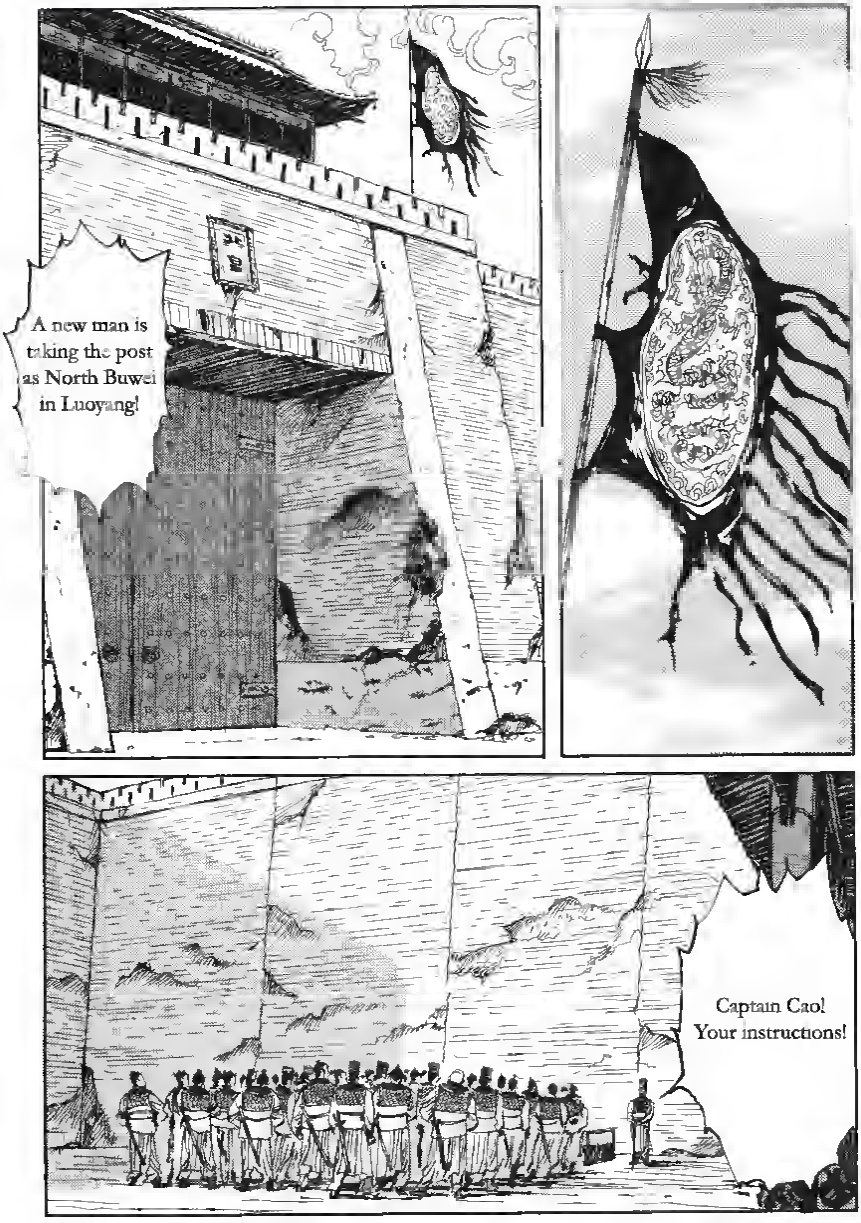
HIHIIII
ヒヒーン
doudou
どうどう
BUHIHI
ブヒヒ
BUHA BUHA!
ブーブー

doudou
どうどう
doudou
どうどう
BUHAH!
ブフーン
BUHIN
ブヒーン
KAH!
カッ
カカッ
KAKAH!
Well, it *was* Cao Cao we went to meet, after all.

Not the kind of guy you'd get on with, Lord Yuan Shao.
doudou
どうどう


Well, I guess you're right as well.
GABAH!
ガバッ
BUHIHI
ブヒヒ

doudou
どうどう
BUHIHIHIHIIIN
ブヒヒヒヒーン
KAKAKAH!
カカカッ
doudou
どうどう
BAFUN! BAFUN!
バフーン バフーン


A new man is taking the post as North Buwei in Luoyang!
Captain Cao! Your instructions!

The happiness of the people depends on the public order of the Han Empire!
My name is Cao Cao.

However, now, the corrupted morals inside Luoyang's castle are severe!
whistle
whistle

ピー
ピー
ゴッ
In order to reform the declining public order in Luoyang, we shall start with the worst place, the North Gate
Gentlemen, this is your important obligation!

コホン
cough

That's splendid, captain!
スッテキィーッ
Amazing!
カッカッカ
Hah-hah-hah!

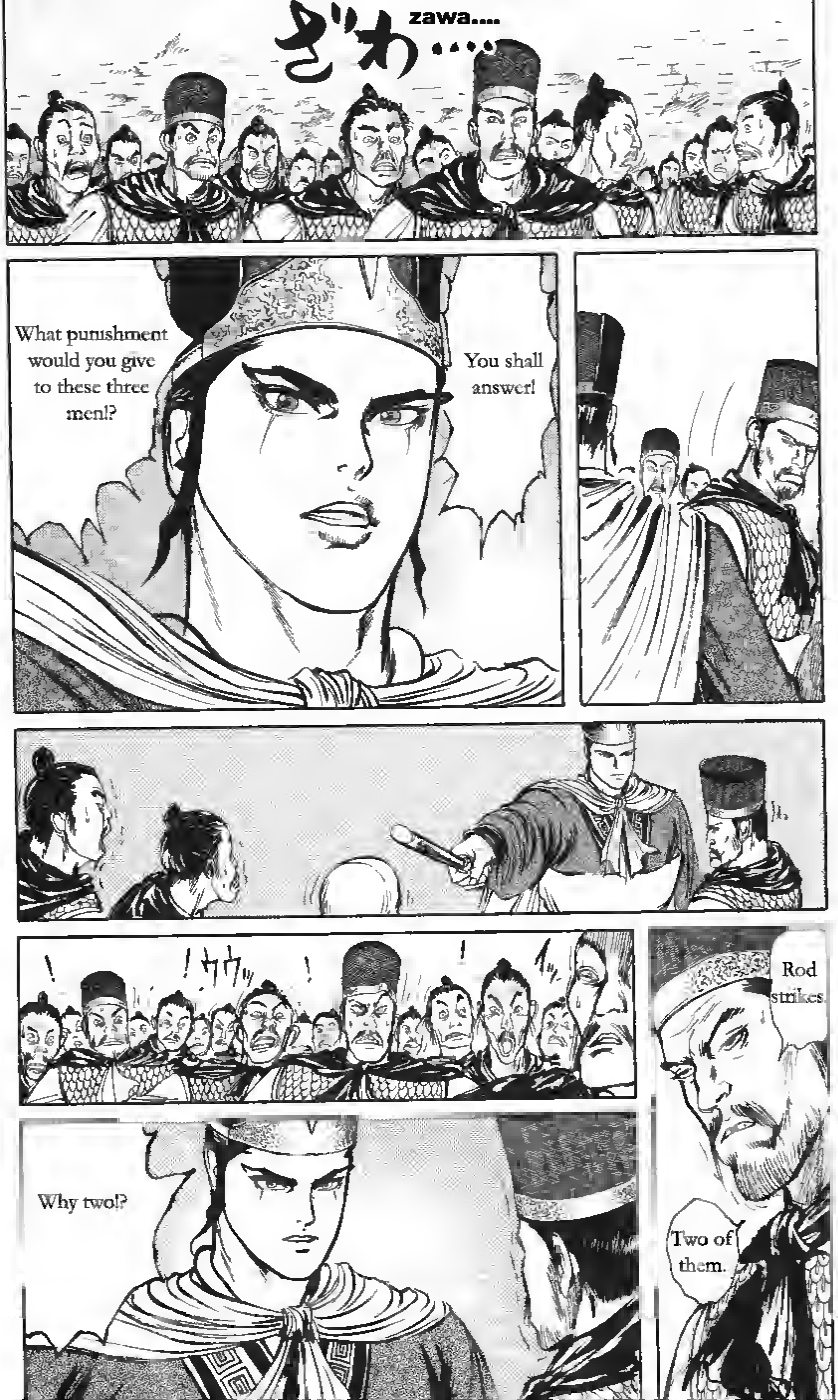
As such,
taking from the Han Dynasty's majestic past...
Heheh!

We shall perform a clean sweep of all those who corrupt the public morals and take advantage of the night's cover to commit crimes!
Starting today, I am issuing a ban on all nighttime passage through the North Gate!
Even if it's a member of the Imperial Family or a government official!?
Whoever commits this crime is to be sentenced to suffer severe punishment.
All those who violate this order shall not be forgiven.
cough

cough
コホン
What is it then, new Captain! Same for Imperial Family or gov'nment officials?
But we wanna know what our job is!
You are not allowed to speak.
whistle *whistle*
Please answer!
Yeah, yeah!
Disobeying the captain is a crime that results in death penalty!

It means that we shall not care whether they are high or low, government or people. This will apply from the Imperial Family and government officials down to the lowest of commoners.
I said whoever it may be.
ZAH
ZAH
Come forth!
Back row, first three from the left!
BIH!
ZAHHH!

!?
ザッ
ZAH
ザッ
ZAH
!
ザッ
ZAH
ザッ
ZAH
!
ザッ
ZAH!
You shall come
out as well.
!


ざわ
zawa.....
What punishment would you give to these three men!?
You shall answer!
Rod strikes
Two of them.
Why two!?

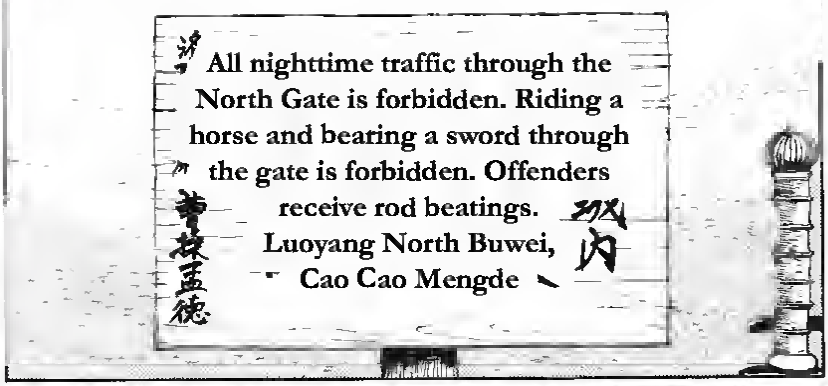
One for insubordination
One for irreverence to superior officer
You shall suffer their punishment!
Add to this one for instructing your fellows: three thrashes!

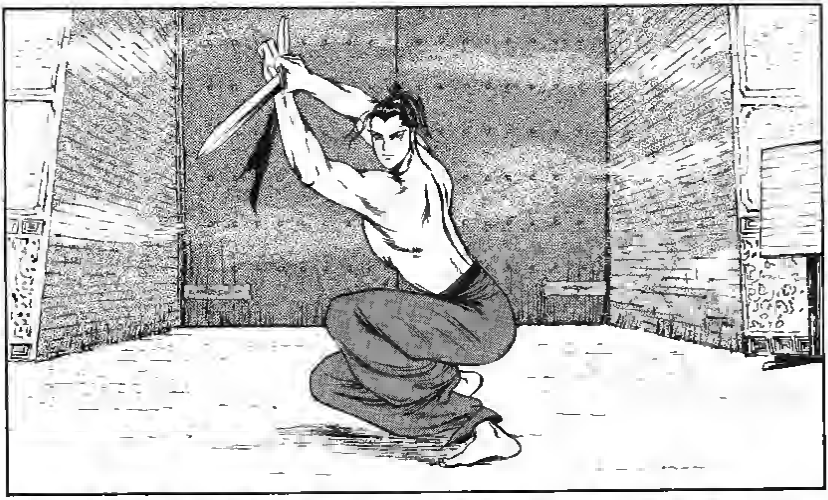
Don't worry.
Do it.
Strike!
Gah
ぐっ
じぃぃ…
ドガ
DOGA!
DOGA!
ドガ
Next!

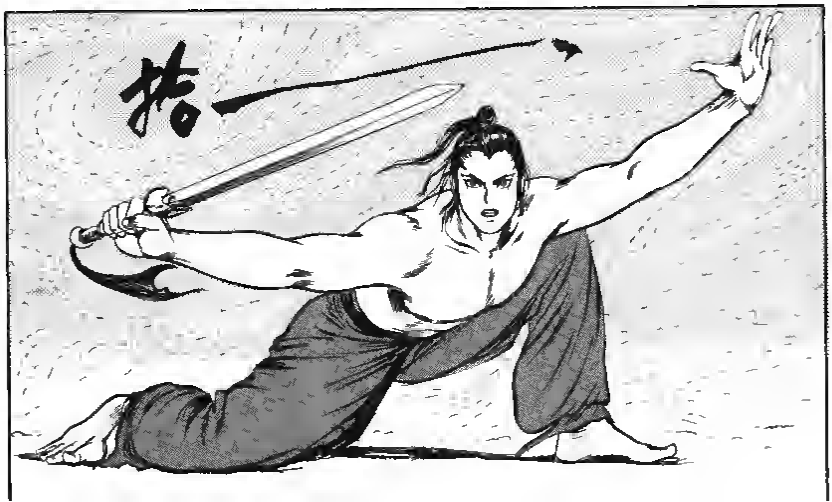
DOGA!
Next!
From now on, you are not allowed to stand in the rear anymore.
はあ
Haa
Good!
And you will look at the soldiers from the front as my adjutant!
You will serve beside me...

その十九 鷹と門／おわり

CHAPTER 20
●その二十●
五彩棒
THE FIVE-
COLORED ROD


All nighttime traffic through the North Gate is forbidden. Riding a horse and bearing a sword through the gate is forbidden. Offenders receive rod beatings.
Luoyang North Buwei,
Cao Cao Mengde

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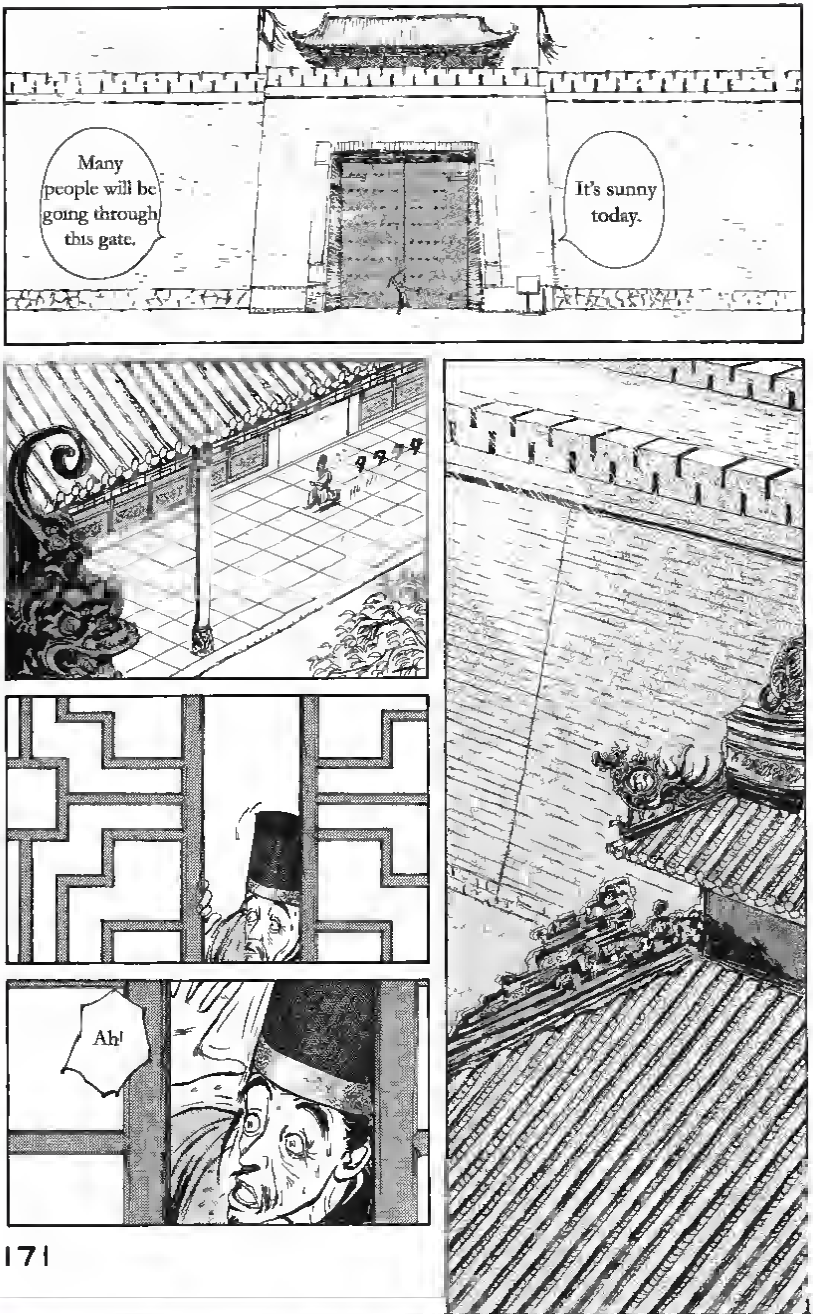
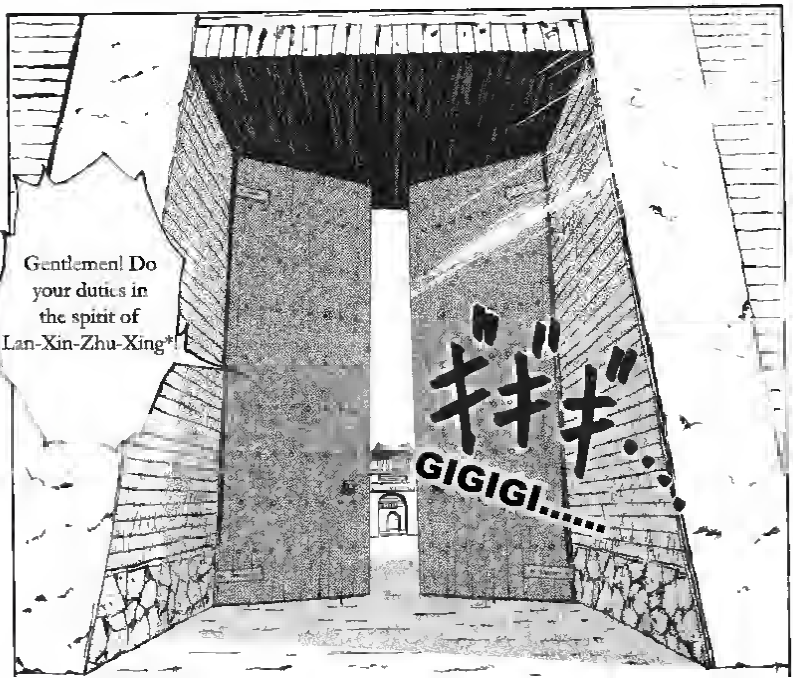
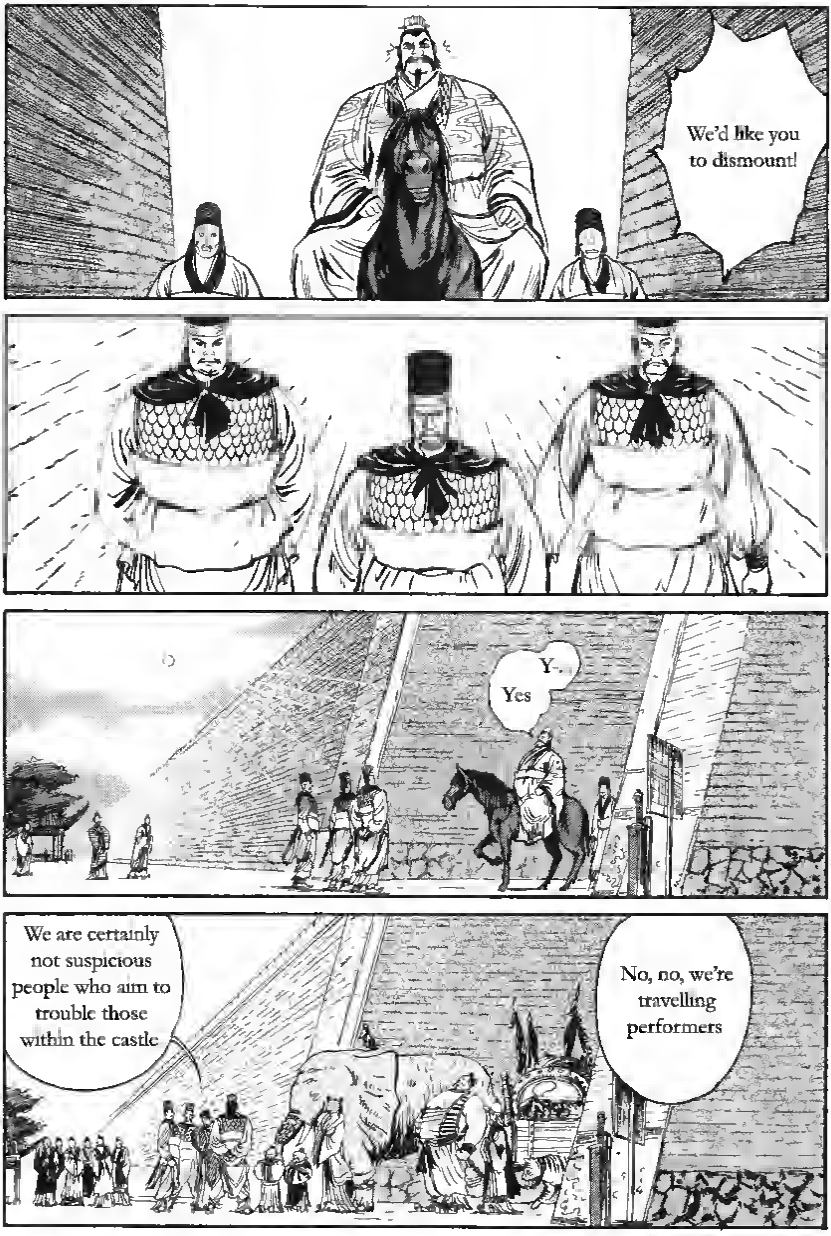
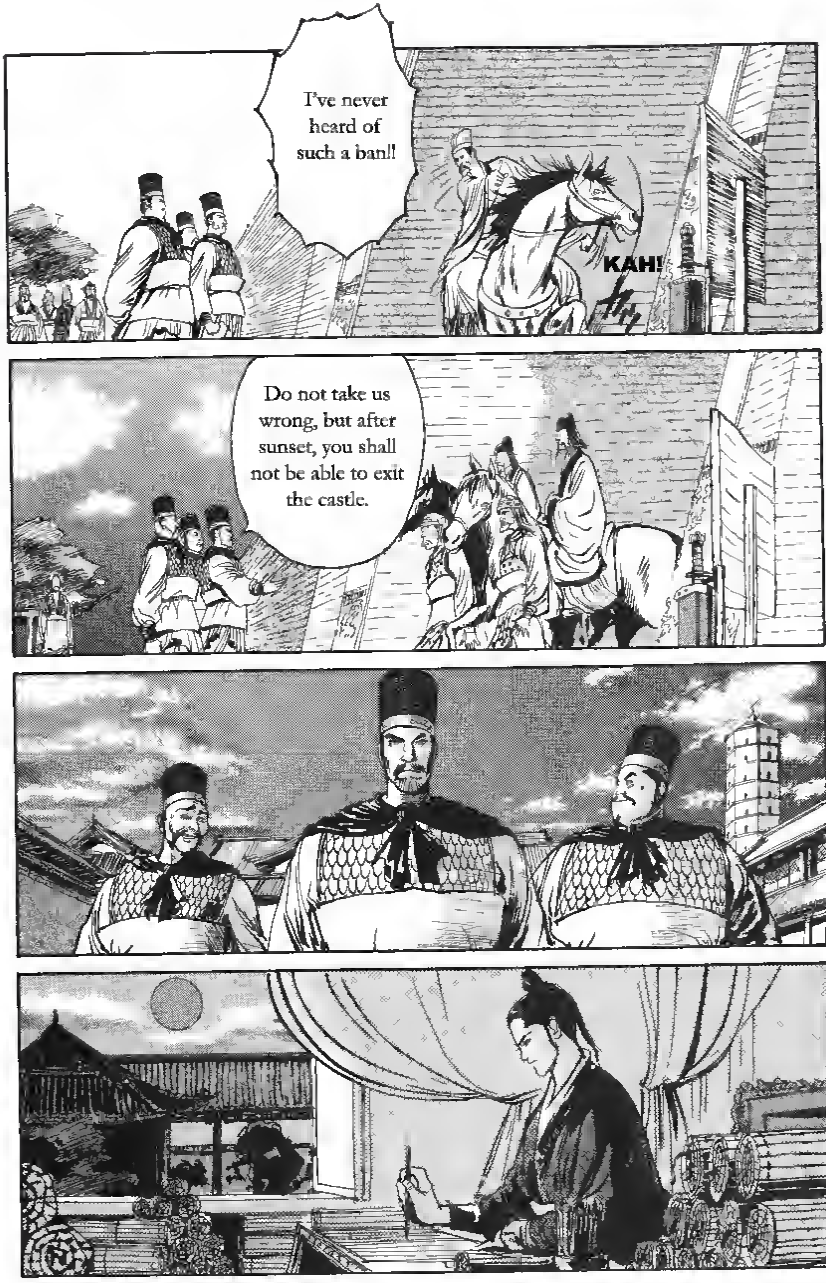

Many people will be going through this gate.
It's sunny today.
Ah!

I am deeply sorry for being late!
All of them have gathered. They said they will soon stand in rows and wait for their captain.
Yes!
Have the troops gathered?
You are not late.



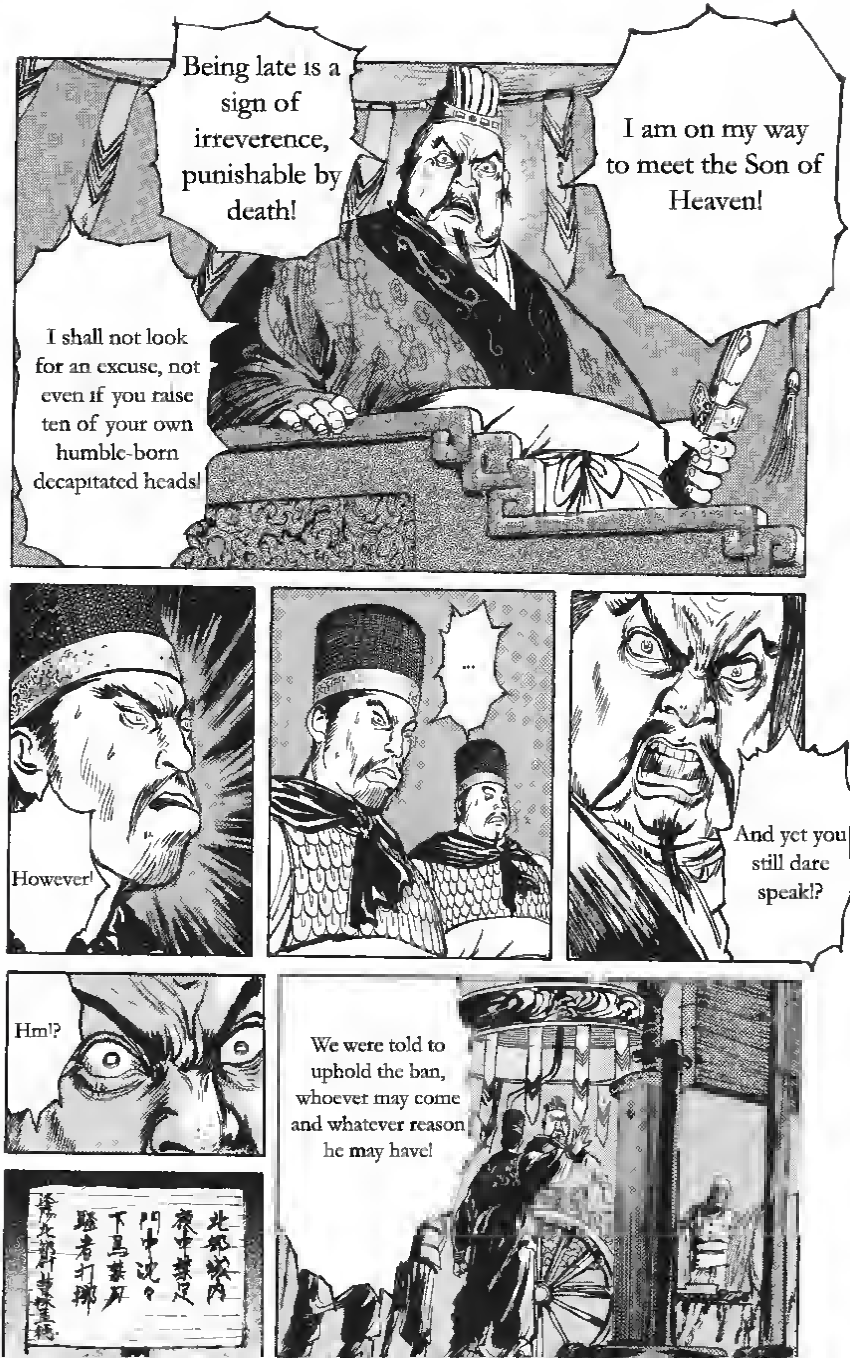
*Lan-Xin Zhu-Xing="Sublime as the orchid, straight as the bamboo"


We'd like you to dismount!
Y-
Yes
We are certainly not suspicious people who aim to trouble those within the castle
No, no, we're travelling performers


I've never heard of such a ban!!
KAH!
Do not take us wrong, but after sunset, you shall not be able to exit the castle.

GAGAGA...
ガガガ
GAGAGA...
ガガガ!
J-just a moment...
GAGAGA...
ガガガ

Well done, well done.
Performing gate duties at this hour?
ガガガ
GAGAGA
Nighttime passage through the North Gate is forbidden!
Please wait, Lord Jian Shuo!
ダダッ
DADAH!
Who do you think *you're* talking to?
Please go back.
Nighttime traffic is punished.
Whaaat?
ギャギャギャギャ
GYAGYAGYAGYA


Being late is a sign of irreverence, punishable by death!
I am on my way to meet the Son of Heaven!
I shall not look for an excuse, not even if you raise ten of your own humble-born decapitated heads!
However!
...
And yet you still dare speak!?
Hm!?
We were told to uphold the ban, whoever may come and whatever reason he may have!
北郭城内
禁中禁足
門中沈々
下馬禁戸
駆者打擲

don!
どん
Hn!
dan!
だん
"Offenders receive rod beatings"!?
JAH!
ジャッ
I am Jian Shuo, the great official who works at the Palace of Warm Benevolence!
dan!
dan!
dan!
I'll beat him personally!
Bring that idiot called Cao Cao right now!
don!
どん
BAH!
GAH!
ZAH!
There shall be no need for that.
ZAH!

So it's you!?
I am Cao, the buwei.
Know your place, you brat!
GABAH!

BAH!
UGH!
GAH!
This is not for you to hold
What the hell are you doing!?
BAH!
BAH!
DOH!
DOHN!

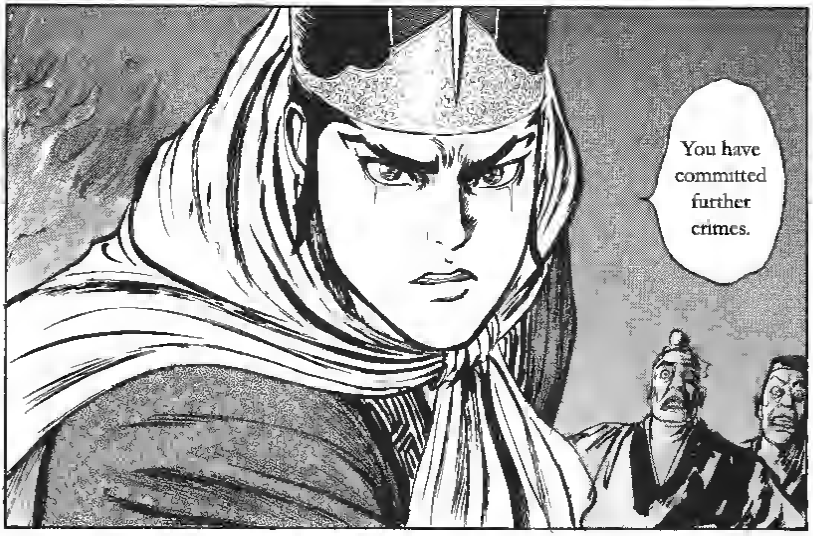
S-stop!
Seize him!
W-what are you doing!?
UGUH!
ゲボ!!

How many strikes are appropriate to this man?
Adjutant!
In addition..
Night traffic through the North Gate, entering the castle riding a horse and bearing a weapon, as well as causing a riot at the gate.
Specify your reasons!
Aye! 100 strikes are adequate!
..nterfering with gatekeeper duty by using one's subordinates, coercing and attacking the buwei, and furthermore.
..mproper speech and conduct towards an aristocrat, as well as damaging public morals.
..rampageous behavior and contempt..
In addition to these, intimidation and coercion of gatekeepers, possession of cavalry riding white horses, procession without notice, wearing forbidden court dress, trampling on a notice board. .

...I can count 36 crimes.
Still...
If we were to actually perform 36 strikes...
...no human being would survive, obviously.
As such, I am reducing your punishment to half. 18 strikes.
W-...
Wait!

Please!
Call Jian Shi!
Ask him! He'll give you a promotion!
How's that!?
More than that! He'll give you a reward! Come now!
I see. So you're part of a eunuch's family.
What about it?
I am the uncle of Regular Palace Attendant Jian Shi!!
You're a buwei, you must have heard of Jian Shi!
I see...
A promotion and a reward you say.
I won't say anything bad about you! Please, untie me!
Yes! All you and your subordinates did will be forgotten if you stop!

Showing contempt to a buwei and instructing him, as well as disgracing an official's name.
Attempt at bribery.
どしっ
doshi!


You have committed further crimes.

I think we can both agree that I must add 4 strikes to your punishment!
その三十 五彩棒 おわり

Chapter 21

―その二十一―

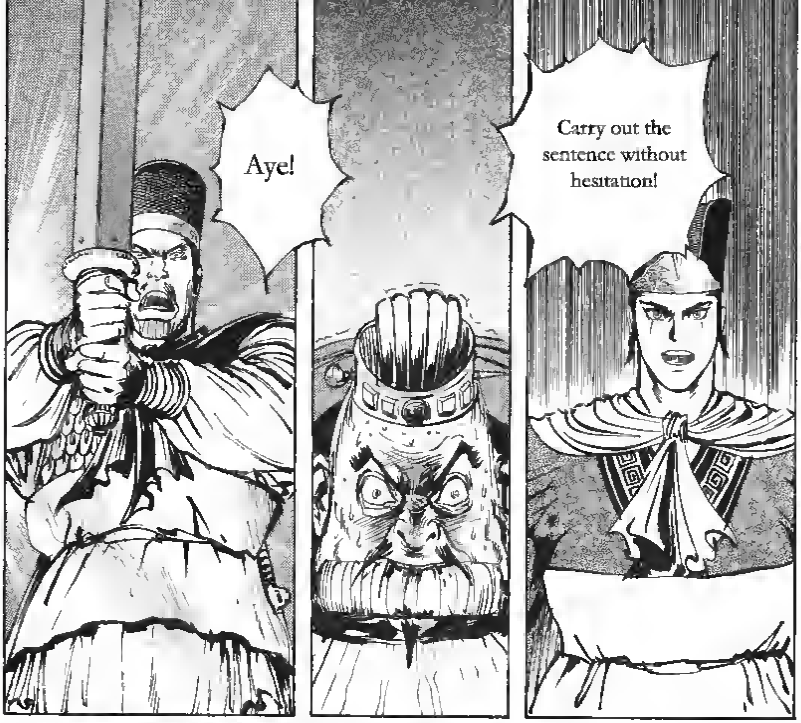
傀儡と天秤

The Puppet and the Scales

Please forgive meeee!
I'm sorry! I'll never do it again!
Stooop! Pleaaaaaase!

You shall not die from 22 strikes if you put enough spirit into it.
Lord Jian Shuo

Zong Yi.
I get it! You're a great buwei! I'll help you become a Grand Palace Grandee! Right now, there's an empty place for exactly one person! How's that? It's not bad. Dissatisfied? Chief Commandant of Cavalry!? Not good? Then general, no, commander-in-chief!!
Wh...
gui!
Please pay attention, Lord Jian Shuo.
Hold on tightly to the biting-rod. Please make sure not to let go.
Ah! I'll make you a general!! You'll get a large mansion and 100 servants!! Or maybe you want to be a commander-in-chief as well!!
guh!
Hold on to these two iron rods.
ugugugu!
gui!
GAPA!



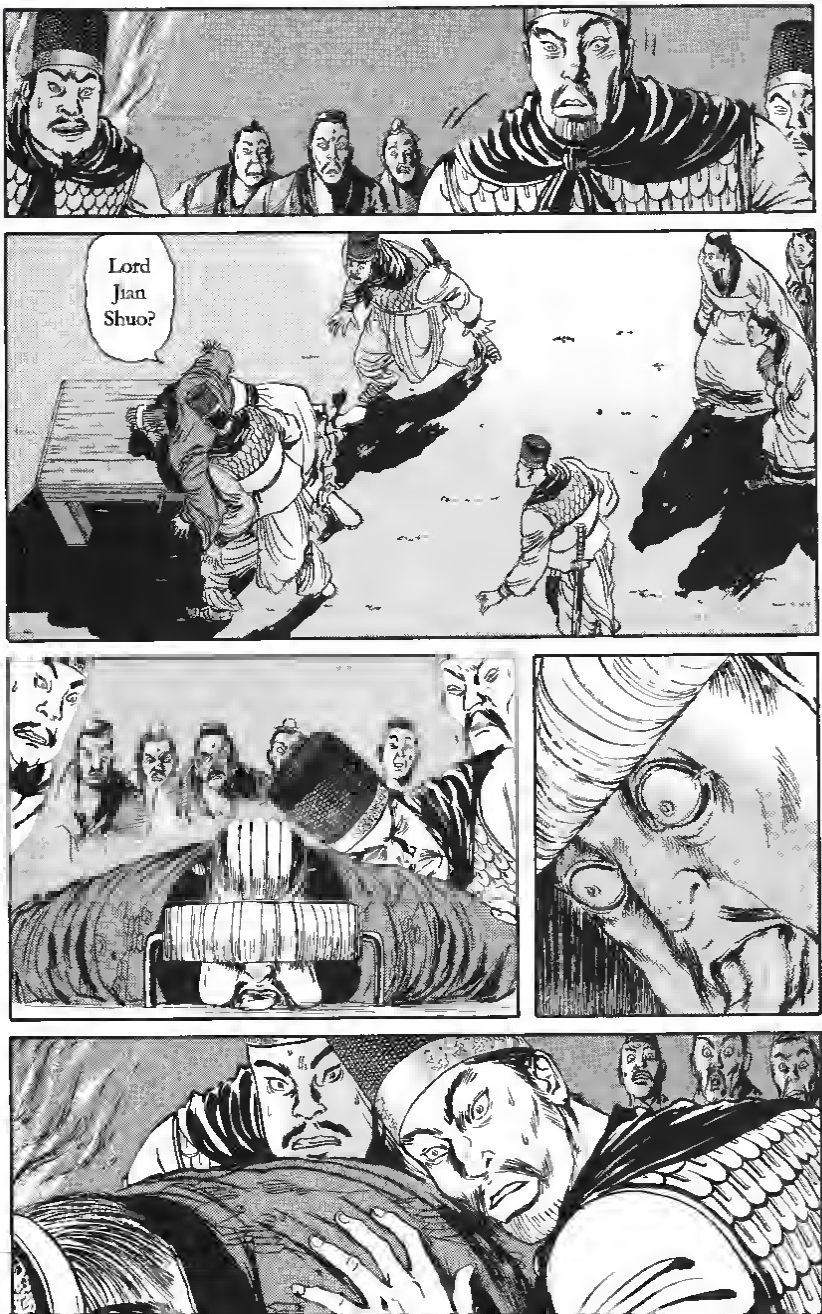
In accordance to the strict laws of the North Gate, we hereby perform this punishment!
22 strikes from the *five-colored rod!

*Note: It's not that colorful, it's just five-sided. I guess this is just metaphorical. It occurred to me only after having posted the previous chapter.

DOGAH!
ドガ!
ONE!

Iiiiiiii!
Gyaaaaaaah!
Lord Jian Shuo!
gaaaaaaaa!
Please follow my instructions and put up with this!
Lord Jian Shuo!!
Giiiiiiiiiiiii!
chon!

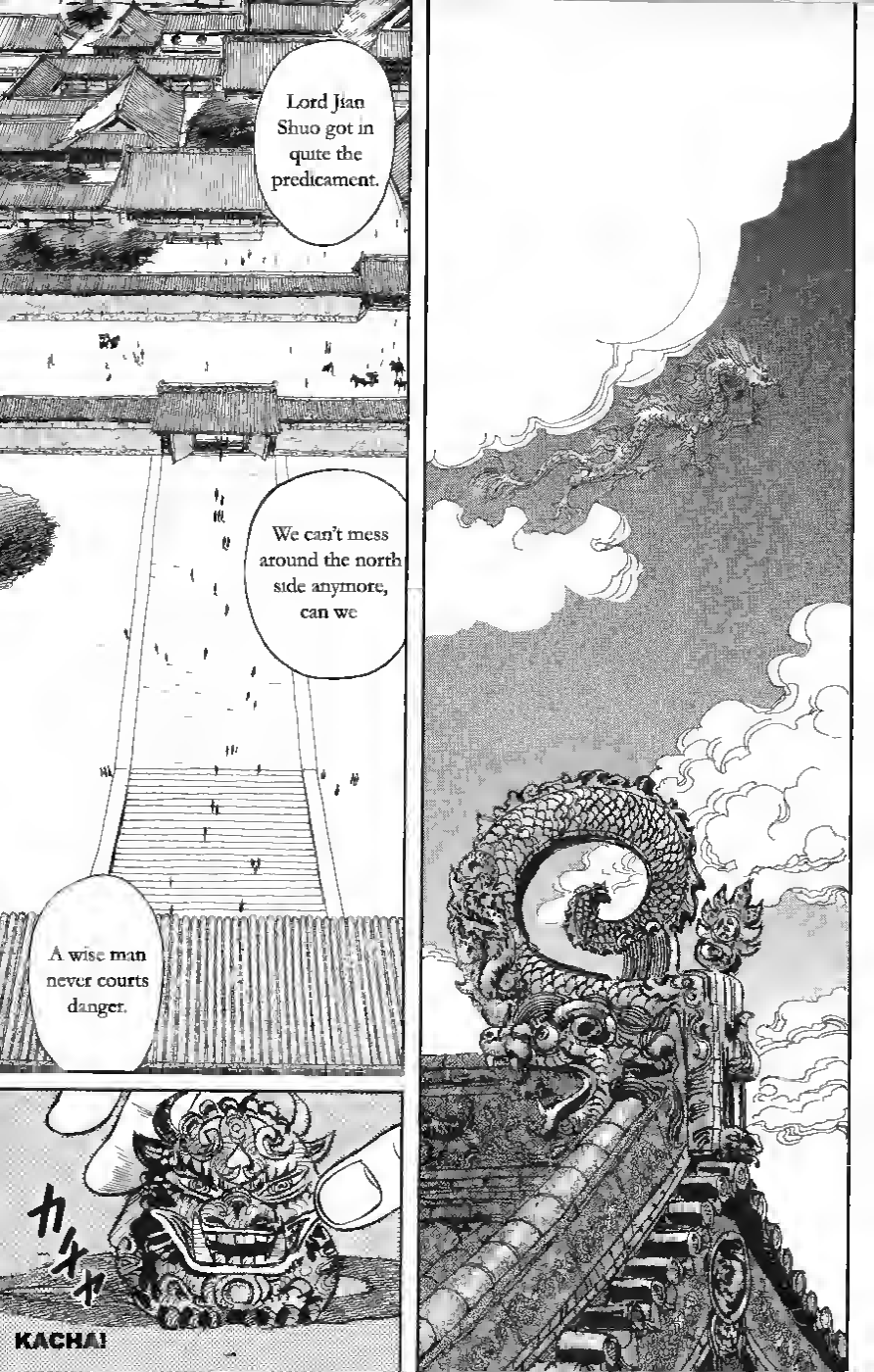
ゴッ
GOH!


Lord Jian Shuo?

Sir!

He's dead!

Very well then!

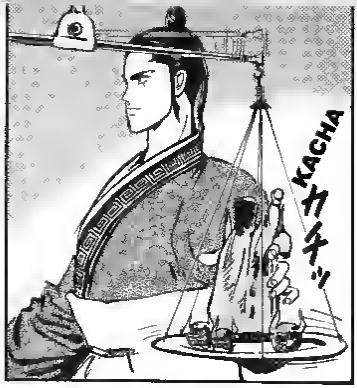

Lord Jian Shuo got in quite the predicament.
We can't mess around the north side anymore, can we
A wise man never courts danger.
カチャ
KACHA!

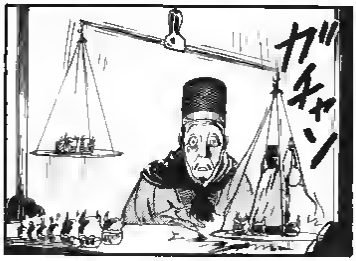
West City
I'm way too scared to go near the North Gate.
True that! They've been rattling people so hard around there that business got screwed up.
Honest people in the neighbourhood are really happy, though.
Since then, public order's certainly gotten better.
カチカツ
KACHAH!
カチカツ
KACHAH!
Buwei, save meeeeeee!!

Clearly, no hero would be able to survive 100 strikes!
It is exagerated!
Buwei, sir!
Rejected! I sentence you to 100 strikes!
hiiiiii
In that case, I'll beat him personally!
ちょん
chon
You dare question me!?
ドガ
DOGA!
DOGA!
DOGA!
どっ
GEEH!
doga!
EEEEN
EEEEEN!
Stop!
HIIIIII
That's awful!
GEEEEE!

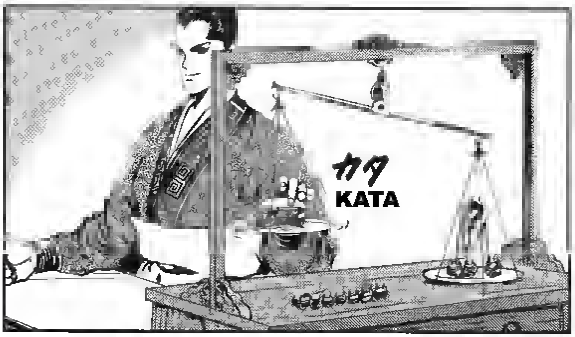
Waaaaah!
All those who oppose me go straight to hell!
...
They're making you look like a brutish demon, sir!
After the play, they started selling items such as this one
Moreover, there's those damned puppeteers.

DADAH!
ダダダッ
Buwei, sir!

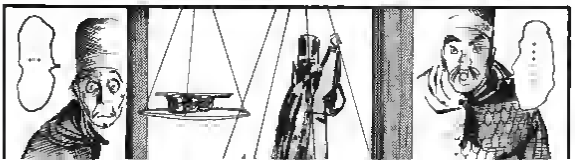

KACHA
カチャッ

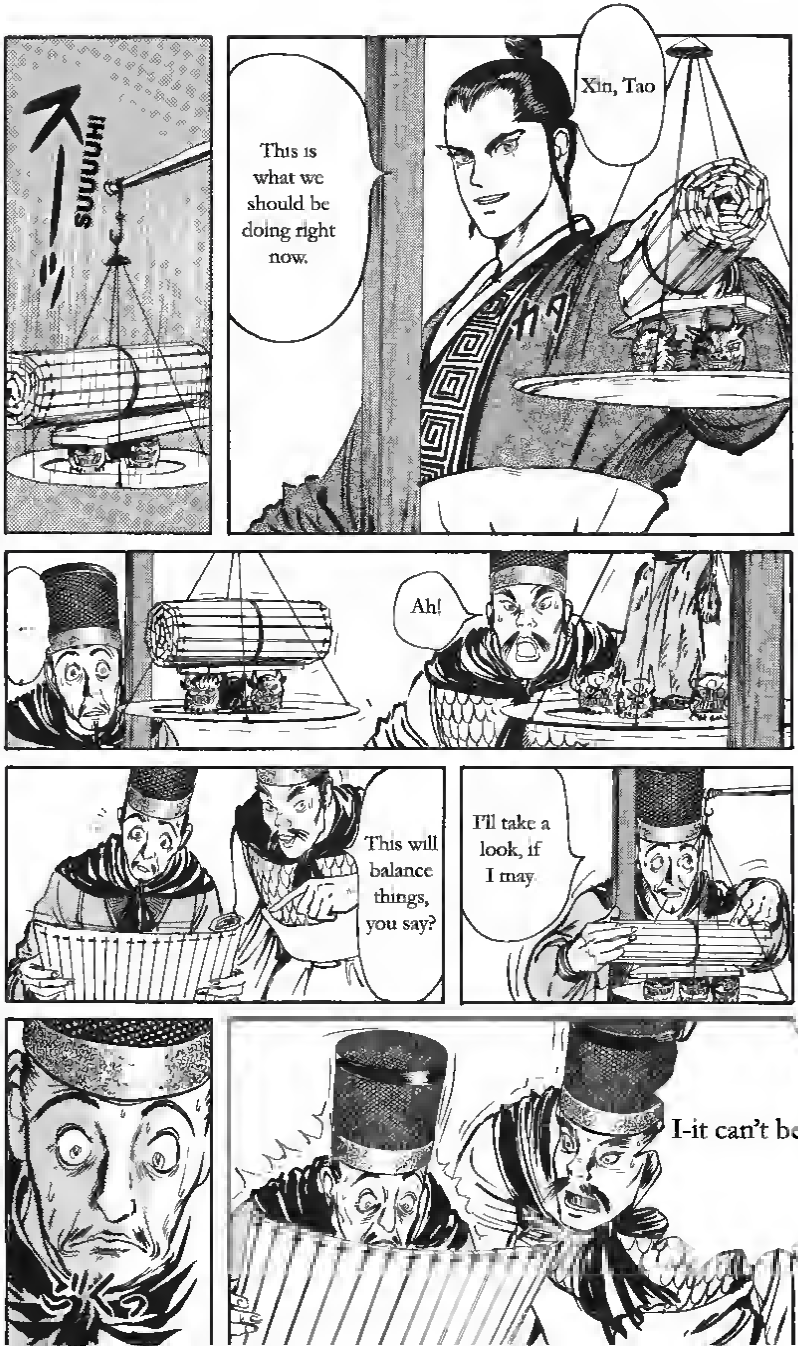

GACHAN!
ガチャン

They're spreading rumors that using these is much more effective against ruffians than hiring bodyguards!
DADAH!
ダダダッ
These notes have started showing up in eastern city shops!

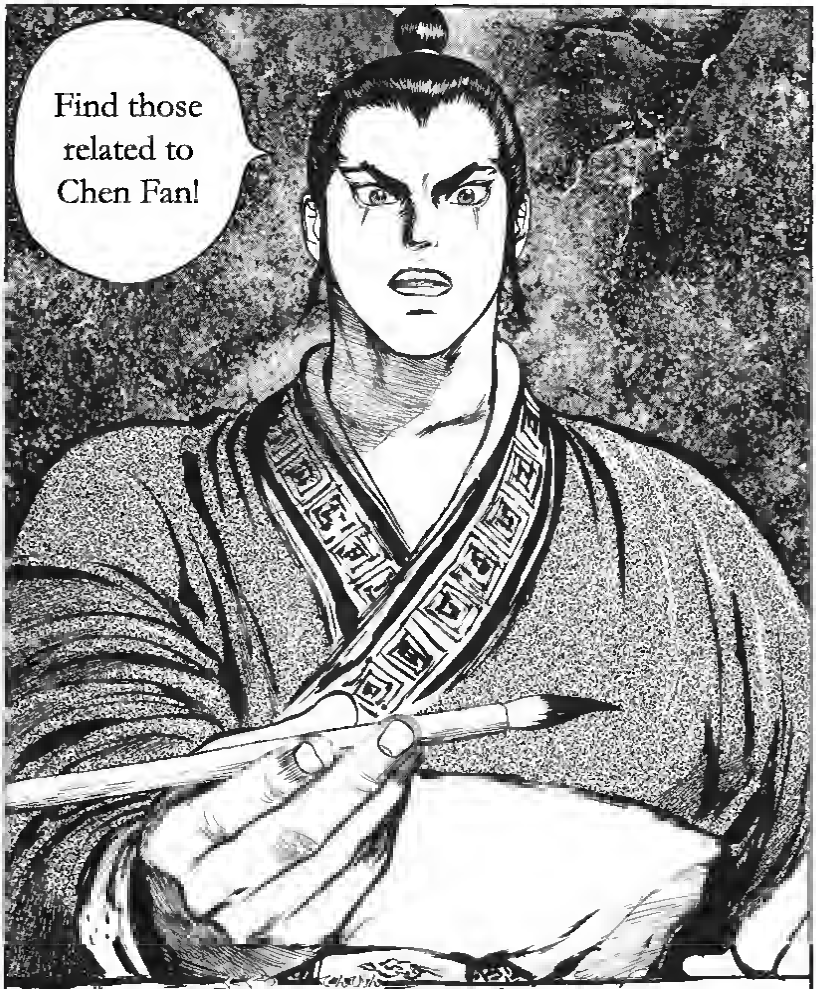

KATA
カタ

北門鬼揆 御用達


...
...


SUUUUH!
This is what we should be doing right now.
Xin, Tao
Ah!
This will balance things, you say?
I'll take a look, if I may.
I-it can't be!

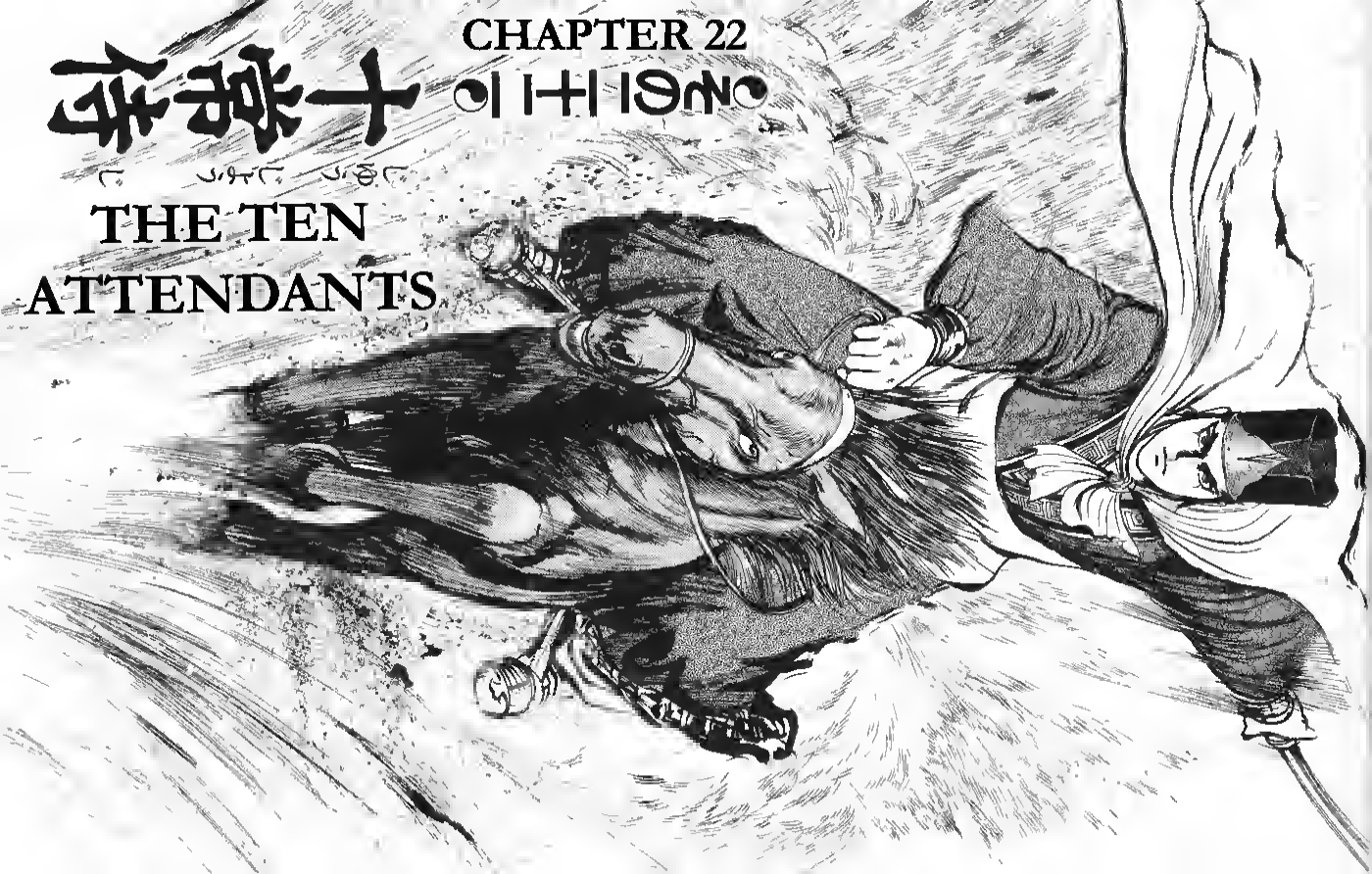
The case of the "Partisan Prohibitions" has already been solved!
I am afraid to tell you, but.
GABA!
...will not only fail to raise your reputation, but will lead to all of us getting decapitated!
Showing interest in this right now and going beyond your duties...
B-by all means, cease this!
!
At any rate, we have to find the whereabouts of Chen Fan's surviving connections
It doesn't matter how distant the relative is.

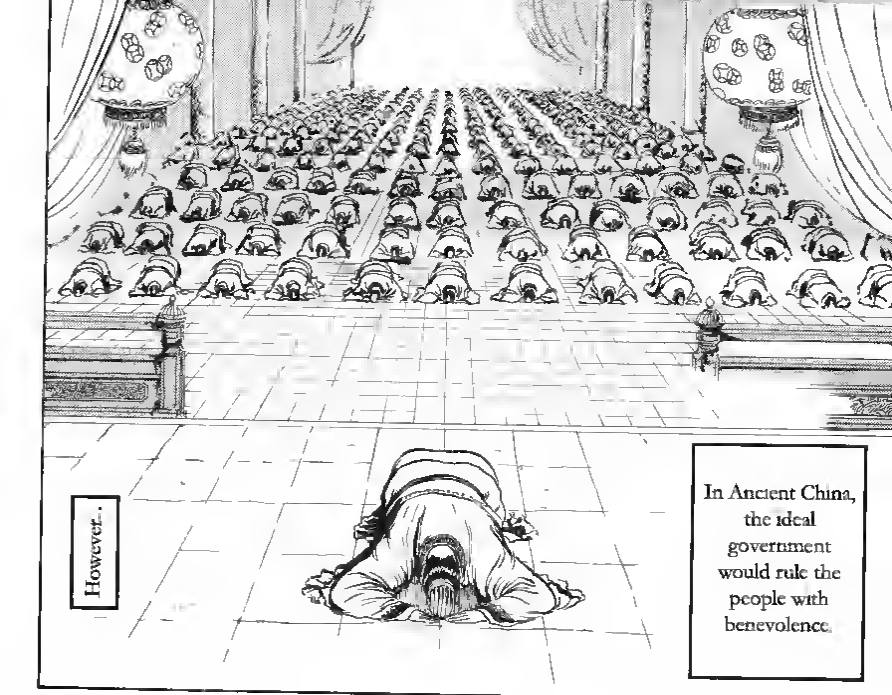


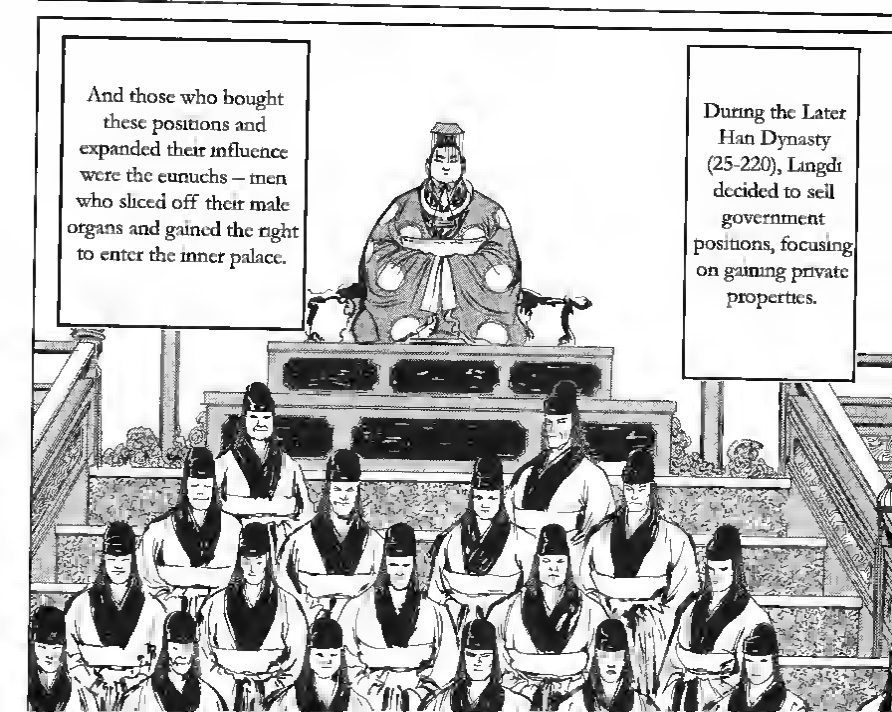
その二十一　傀儡と天秤　おわり

CHAPTER 22

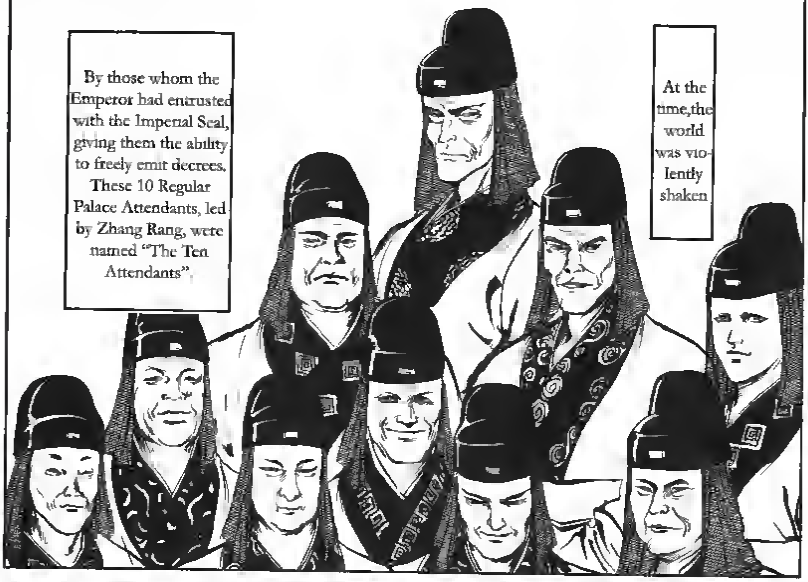
THE TEN ATTENDANTS

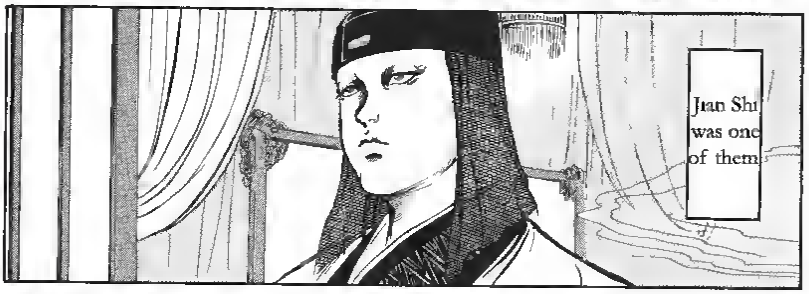



In Ancient China, the ideal government would rule the people with benevolence.
However...


During the Later Han Dynasty (25-220), Lingdi decided to sell government positions, focusing on gaining private properties.
And those who bought these positions and expanded their influence were the eunuchs – men who sliced off their male organs and gained the right to enter the inner palace.

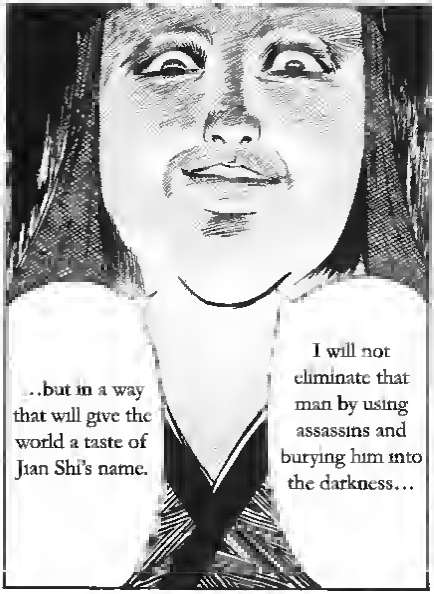
With the money they gained, they would buy even more positions. Before long, they had the political world under their thumb
The eunuchs turned their relatives into local officials, and were thus furtherly exploiting the famined peasants.
Sadly, it fell before the information network the eunuchs had at their disposal.
In the year 168, a coup d'état was planned. Its aim was the expulsion of the decaying eunuch government.
These were called "the Partisan Prohibitions".
Ringleader Chen Fan and more than 100 people were executed, while 2000 others were tortured. This was to serve as an example of the power the eunuchs had.

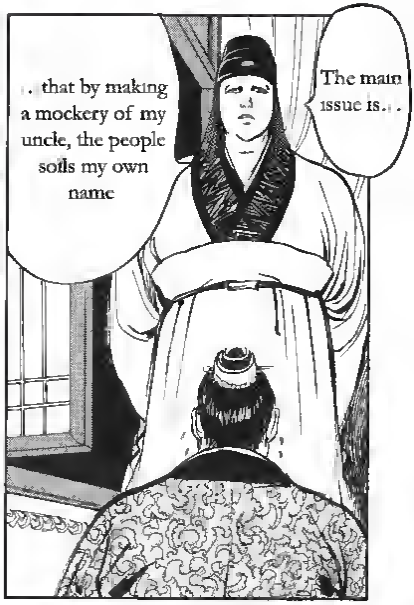

By those whom the Emperor had entrusted with the Imperial Seal, giving them the ability to freely emit decrees. These 10 Regular Palace Attendants, led by Zhang Rang, were named "The Ten Attendants".
At the time,the world was violently shaken

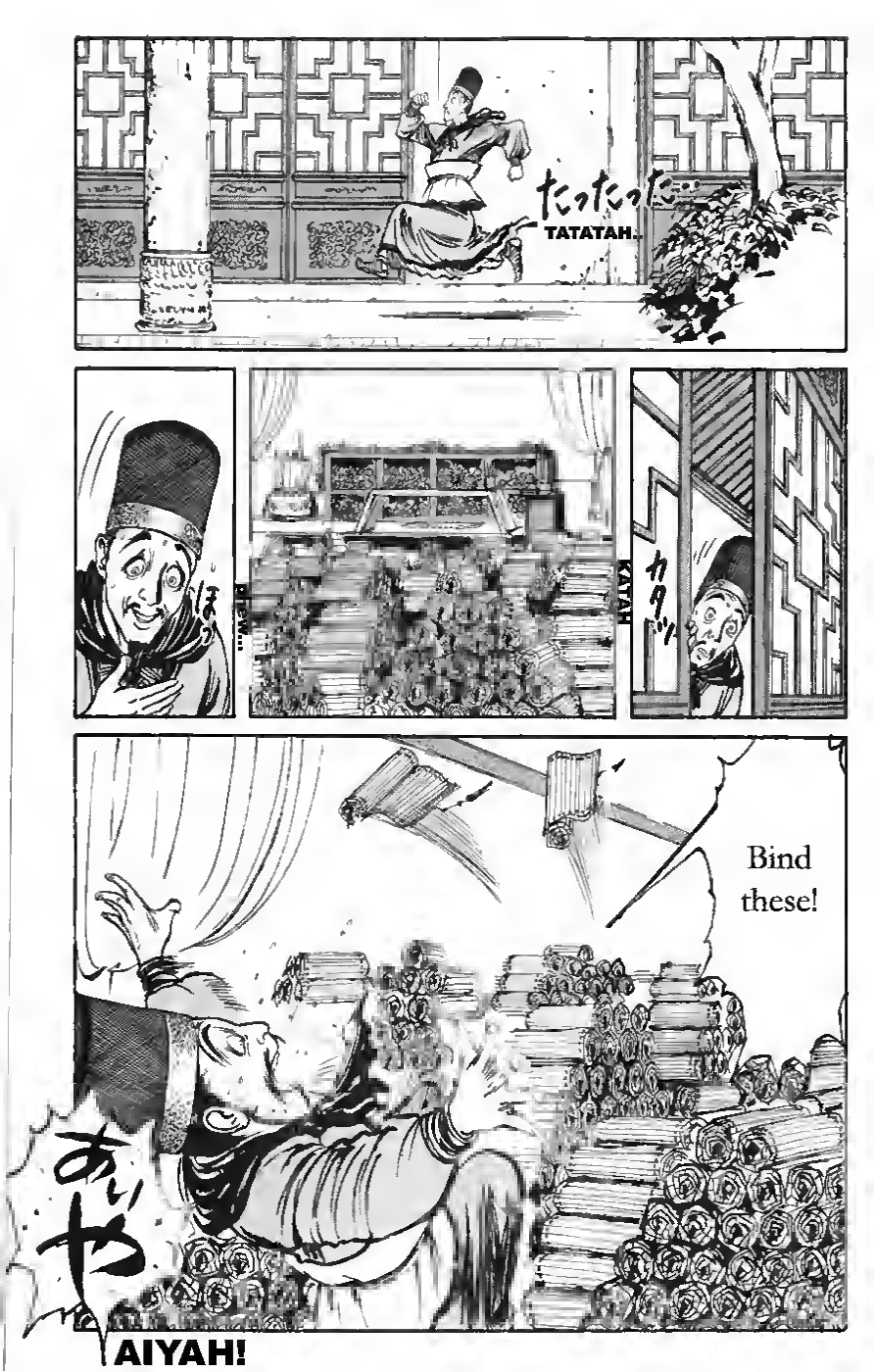

Jian Shi was one of them.

Yes, I do.
So, Father...
You say my uncle, Jian Shuo, was beaten to death despite having mentioned my name?

If he's his grandson...
He should be aware of the power of the Ten Attendants
...you say?
By the likes of a North Buwei...
In fact, that man is the grandson of former Regular Palace Attendant, Cao Teng. I can't do anything against him.
I was of the same opinion when I started investigating.
Order your assassins to avenge my older brother!
Jian Shi! I beg of you!
Jian Shi...
I have no intention of avenging a man who was overcome by fear and died from only one strike. If I were to do that, it would truly bring shame onto our family!
Father.

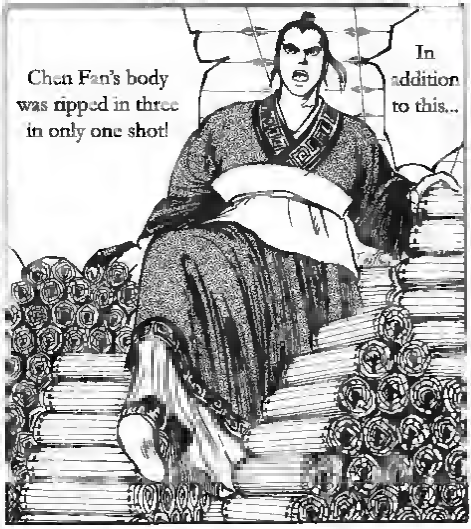

I will not eliminate that man by using assassins and burying him into the darkness…
…but in a way that will give the world a taste of Jian Shi's name.


The main issue is…
… that by making a mockery of my uncle, the people soils my own name


たったった…
TATATAH..
ほっ
BREW...
KAYAH
カタッ
Bind these!
あいや
AIYAH!

I apologize for being late again!
G-good morning!
Bind this one as well!
When *does* the Buwei sleep?
He's coming earlier and earlier to work.
Y-yes!

He was well known for using two throwing axes
SUH!
Their captain, Zhang Huan, resigned after that and retired.
Right before the Partisan Prohibitions, a military unit dedicated to the subjugation of the barbarians* returned.



We must find Zhang Huan's whereabouts!
The one who took the Ten Attendants' order and had direct contact with Chen Fan was probably this very man.
Y-yes!
BAH!

*Barbarians. Foreign tribes who live Northwest of China. They would frequently arm themselves and invade the Han Empire.

The North Buwei, Cao Cao, has executed 7 clerks that his predecessor had overlooked, accusing them of bribery.
I have a new report!
GUGOH!
GUGOOH...
Reporting! Cao Cao coaxed the East, West and South Gates into applying the North Gate's interdictions!
Last night, he first executed 3 men who entered a farmer's home and raped his daughter, and ended up executing a total of 12 attendants and courtiers by the end of the night!
Moreover, he's ordered carpenters and plasterers from all gates to take a large number of refugees under their command and begin repairing the ramparts of Luoyang!
BAH!
BAH!

Reporting! Cao abolished the buwei's personal cavalry and started riding around the castle on a packhorse
グゴ!!!

In only 20 days since his naming, rumours of the North Buwei have already surfaced across all of Luoyang!
There is even a rumor that he was in the East *and* in the West at the same time, yesterday

In fact, they appear to have been looking for people related to Chen Fan.
!

Several of Cao Cao's underlings were seen researching old records in the Ministry of the Masses

This is today's final report.

グエエエエ

GEEEEEEH!

Lord Jian Shi!

クパッ

UPUH!

Chen Fan...!?

KAKAH!

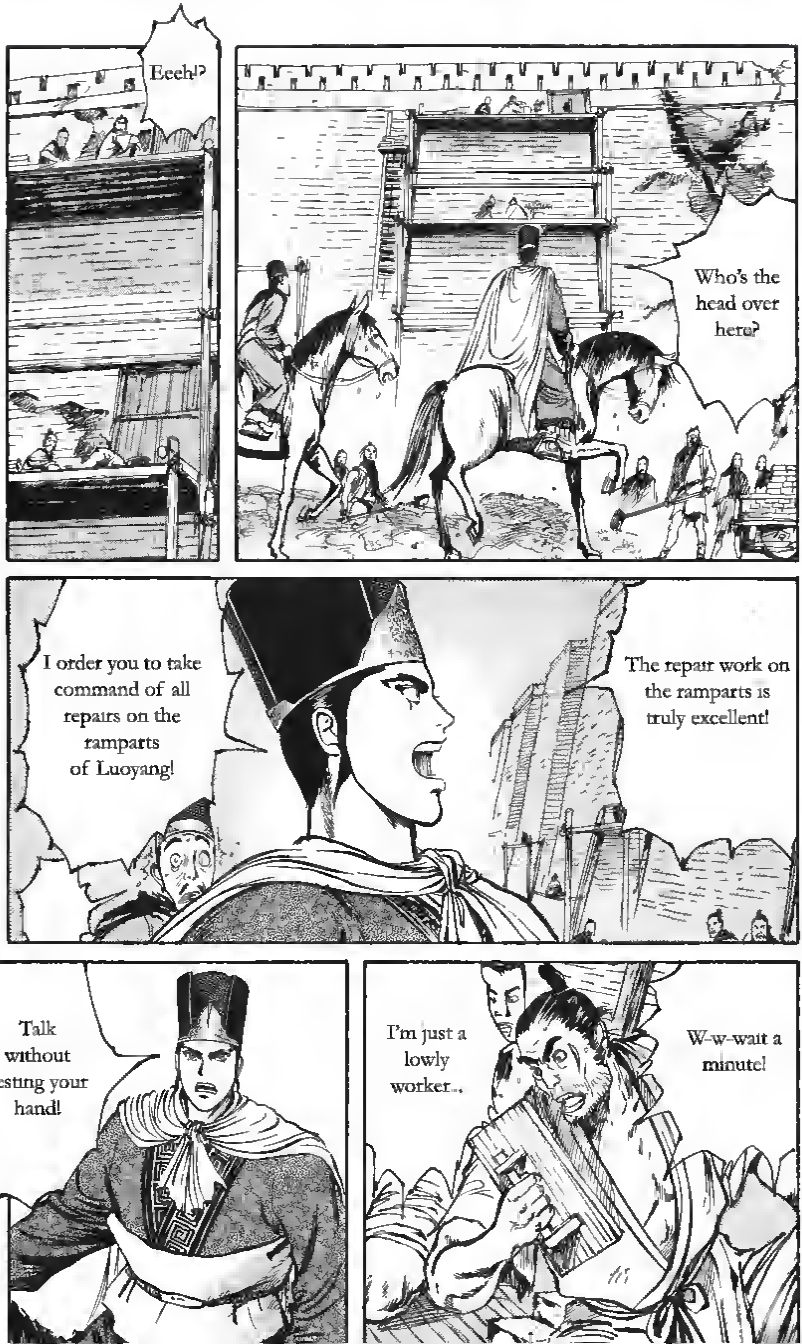
カカッ

KAKAH!

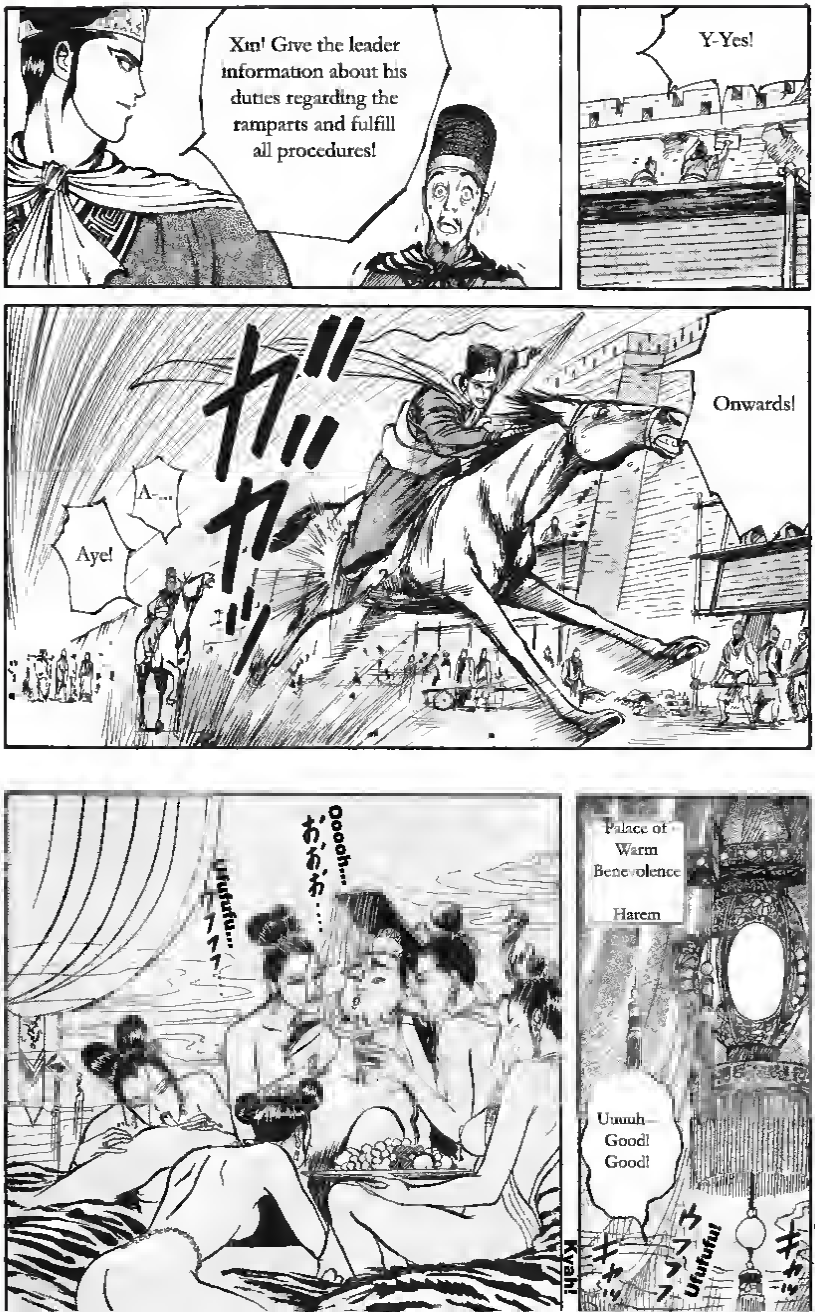
カカッ!

GAGAGAH!

ガガガ


Eeeh!?
Who's the head over here?
I order you to take command of all repairs on the ramparts of Luoyang!
The repair work on the ramparts is truly excellent!
Talk without resting your hand!
I'm just a lowly worker...
W-w-wait a minute!

You fool!
First of all, I don't have the money to buy such a big job!
Nobody told me about this!
Buwei, sir! Don't say that so loudly...
An official position isn't something you buy with money, just to get inside the Imperial Palace!
It's best if the one with the most ability takes command!
Got it!?
Jobs are created to answer to certain needs...


Xin! Give the leader information about his duties regarding the ramparts and fulfill all procedures!
Y-Yes!
Onwards!
A-...
Aye!
Ooooh...
Ufufufu...
Palace of Warm Benevolence
Harem
Uuuuh— Good! Good!
Ufufufu!
Kyah!
Kyah!

aaah...
*Yin Gate: Yin is the female principle, and it's a gate. What do you *think* it is?
Regular Palace Attendants' Office
That won't do. No, no You have to control your Yin Gate* more freely
With this sort of behavior, you can't possibly face the Son of Heaven.
chah! chah!
He's talking about Lord Cao!
Yes, yes!
From what I've heard, that Buwei is Lord Cao Teng's grandson.
Your uncle has been executed by the North Buwei, hasn't he?
Lord Jian Shi
You wouldn't by any chance intend to avenge your uncle?
Jian Shi
Yes

*T/L Note: this is the term used for the 10 eunuchs.

I intend to deal with the current situation.
Lord Zhang Rang, I too have my honor as a member of the Shichangshi*.
Are you prepared for this?
After four years, I, Zhang Rang, am still unable to interfere.
That Cao Cao
But...
Of course.
O.

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